



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
2241 Harvard Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95815

PROJECT TITLE: Hilltop Operations Center (HOC) Retaining Wall

LOCATION: Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument **COUNTY:** San Luis Obispo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Conduct geotechnical testing in and around the 11-foot retaining wall supporting a cul-de sac at the Hilltop Operations Center (HOC) just south of the Hearst Castle building. A large vertical crack has formed in the wall near the high-point and the wall is assumed to be bulging.

Three borings will be taken along the back of the wall, in the existing pavement and will go to a depth of approximately 15-feet. The borings will be drilled by a truck-mounted rig. The borings will be backfilled with cement slurry. To facilitate access for the drill rig, the live oak trees overhanging the wall, into the cul-de-sac, will need to be trimmed.

Excavation will also be performed along the base of the wall with a mini excavator, to expose the existing wall foundation and determine its geometry and depth. It is anticipated these will be shallow excavations and occur at two locations along the base of the wall.

The consultant will also core the wall in 4 locations to determine the thickness of the wall and rebar size. Ground penetrating radar will be used to determine the rebar spacing. Cores will be taken approximately 12 inches and 60 inches above the base of the wall.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Northern Service Center

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption

Class: 6 **Section:** 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, included as "Soils and Structural engineering tests" in the Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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DocuSigned by:
Brian Dewey 11/21/2024
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Brian Dewey DATE
Assistant Deputy Director
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