

## CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** County Clerk  
County of Humboldt  
825 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Office of Planning Research  
State Clearinghouse

**FROM:** City of Eureka, Lead Agency  
Development Services - Planning  
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**PROJECT TITLE:** Red Panda Exhibit – Remodel 2025

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** City of Eureka - Engineering Division

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St. Eureka, CA 95503 (APN: 013-081-001)


**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City has received donor funding to update and remodel the existing Red Panda exhibit at the Sequoia Park Zoo. The project consists of the replacement of and addition of new, modern no-climb exhibit fencing, and the replacement of old, deteriorating viewing guardrails with new viewing guardrails which will match the design of recent exhibits. The project also includes the addition of a 125-square-foot (sf) animal care quarters building. This structure will provide improved animal shelter for the red pandas within the exhibit, as well as improved animal care amenities for the zoo staff to utilize while caring for them. The existing red panda habitat will receive some enhancements too, including two new climbing structures and day dens, along with the new ability to segregate the habitat into two different spaces for animal care purposes.

The existing footprint of the exhibit will not change, and is estimated to be less than 0.25 acres in size (~10,890 sf). All new work will be within the limits of the existing red panda exhibit. Plans and specifications for the project have been reviewed and approved by the City of Eureka, and a building permit (B24-185) has been issued for the project.

**EXEMPTION FINDINGS:** The City of Eureka as Lead Agency has determined that the above described activity is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I categorical

exemption (§15301), which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. The project involves minor alterations to an existing public facility (the Red Panda Exhibit at the Sequoia Park Zoo) with no expansion or change in use. The project is also exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15303, Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), which exempts the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures. Subsection (e) includes accessory structures such as but not limited to garages, carports, and fences. The project involves the construction of a new 125 sq. ft. care quarters and no-climb fencing within the existing footprint of the exhibit. Further, the Lead Agency has determined that use of the categorical exemption is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in §15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with the City of Eureka's Engineering Division of Public Works. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

  
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Samuel Griffard  
Assistant Planner, City of Eureka

January 8, 2024  
Date