



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
Sierra District
P.O. Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142

PROJECT TITLE: Pioneer Monument Site Improvements

LOCATION: Donner Memorial State Park

COUNTY: Nevada

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Conduct landscaping and site improvements at and around the Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park including vegetation planting, widening existing pathways, and installing new ADA-accessible walking paths, seating, and gathering areas to enhance the visitor experience. Work will consist of the following:

- Use heavy equipment to install additional concrete and pavers to expand the width of the existing circular cement walkway surrounding the Pioneer Monument from 4-ft wide to an ADA-accessible 8-ft wide walkway;
- Install a new approx. 665-ft long by 5-ft wide ADA-accessible decomposed granite (DG) walking path that will meander around the monument, under trees, through new and existing vegetation, new seating boulders, and between three (3) new gathering areas;
- Install a new ADA-accessible walkway for designated access to an adjoining trail system;
- Excavate and install two (2) new 20-ft by 10-ft concrete viewing areas adjacent to the monument;
- Encircle each concrete pad with symbolic vegetation protection fencing;
- Install three (3) new ADA-accessible gathering areas along the new meandering walkway (approx. 420 sq ft. total);
- Install 18-in. wide stone seat walls, that match existing retaining walls at each of the three (3) new ADA-accessible gathering areas;
- Install approx. 50 seating stones (granite boulders) adjacent to the walking paths;
- Plant native vegetation at approx. 3-ft density for grasses, forbs, and subshrubs; 5-ft for shrubs, and 10-ft for trees (aspens); and
- Install either split rail fencing that matches the existing fencing, or symbolic cable, chain, or wrought iron fencing to encircle the newly planted vegetation surrounding the monument.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sierra District

EXEMPT STATUS:


Categorical Exemption *Class:* 1, 3 & 4 *Section:* 15301, 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new small facilities or structures; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

CONTACT: Lindsay Cline
Sierra District

PHONE NO.: (530) 489-8331

EMAIL: Lindsay.Cline@parks.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

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 Rob Griffith
 District Superintendent, Northern/Sierra District

1/15/2025
 DATE