



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

PROJECT TITLE: Merrill Hall/Asilomar Timeline Interpretive Panel

LOCATION: Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds **COUNTY:** Monterey

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project proposes to install a new interpretive panel below and west of the stairway approach to Merrill Hall at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds to provide information about Asilomar’s history, initial development as a YMCA camp in 1913, to its establishment as a State Park in 1958.

The new sign will consist of a 140-in. x 34-in. high x 3/4-in. thick high-pressure laminate panel mounted on a custom redwood base mounted on concrete pier footings with a concealed flange base. The area surrounding the new sign will be covered with pavers matching the existing walkways.

The panel will provide information and images that highlight significant persons, events, and points in time as well as the historic legacy of the Parks’ Julia Morgan-designed buildings that comprise a National Historic Landmark, and the John Carl Warneke buildings that are listed on the National Historic Register.

The location of the sign will allow visitors to view the historic approach and appreciate the Merrill Hall facade from the vantage point of the interpretive panel.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Monterey 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, included as “Construction or installation of park facilities, such as interpretive signing or panels” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4; 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: Jill Poudrette
Monterey District

PHONE NO.: (707) 769-5652 x235
EMAIL: Jill.Poudrette@parks.ca.gov

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Daniel Shaw 4/3/2025
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Dan Shaw DATE
District Superintendent
Monterey District