



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

CEQA # 11722

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2016048190

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

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018

PROJECT TITLE: Aptos Creek Fire Road Landing Zone Expansion and Water Tank Rehabilitation

LOCATION: The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Restore an existing helicopter landing zone (LZ) and existing water tank adjacent to Aptos Creek Fire Road located within The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park to reduce transport time for patients during medical emergencies and to provide water for the fire engines and water tenders to assist with wild fires. Work will:

At the Landing Zone (LZ):

Increase the size of the LZ by removing vegetation from an additional 100 foot area to the north of the existing LZ to better accommodate helicopter approach and departure; no grading will occur as part of this project. Widen the east and west sides of the LZ to a lesser degree by removing approximately forty-five (45) trees (primarily Douglas-fir, but also including madrone, oak and maple). Cut off tree limbs and branches along the steeper north slopes and scatter on-site. Leave tree trunks uncut to resemble a natural fall. Vegetation immediately surrounding the meadow that is less than 4" diameter will either be chipped or lopped and scattered along north slopes and vegetation greater than 4" diameter surrounding the meadow will be removed off site.

At the Water Tank

Excavate a trench approximately fifty (50) feet long by twelve (12) inches wide by four (4) inches deep to install a three (3) inch diameter plastic pipe from the tank, underground, to a stand pipe approximately fifty (50) feet away from the edge of the LZ. The line will be buried four (4) inches deep. Backfill the trench with native soil and place forest litter over the fill to prevent surface erosion

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Santa Cruz District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption
Class: 4 & 33

Section: 15304 & 15333

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of minor alteration in the condition of land and vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes and is included as "resource management projects"; and not exceeding five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for plants, or wildlife provided that the projects will provide re-vegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species and restore or enhance habitat that are carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR 15300.4

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Santa Cruz District

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Chris Spahrer
District Superintendent (Acting)
Santa Cruz District

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DATE: April 14, 2016

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE