

**State of California  
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  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace or Improve Foothill, Nature and Brown Creek Trail Structures

**LOCATION:** Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

**COUNTY:** Humboldt

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Project replaces two large footbridges, a 90' bridge on Foothill Trail and a 65' footbridge over Prairie Creek where the Nature Trail joins Elk Prairie Trail. Project replaces an 18' footbridge and two puncheons on the Nature Trail. Improvements on the Nature Trail include rerouting 200' of trail that has washed out and installing a 16' puncheon over a wet section of trail. On the Brown Creek Trail, project replaces two footbridges, a 26' span crossing Brown Creek and a 24' bridge at the junction with the Trail of the Great.

All of the existing structures have failed or are rotting, and are need of replacement to protect visitor safety and the resources from degradation. All excavations will be minimal, as the replacement structures would be the same basic size, footprint, and design as the original structures. The excavations would only be enough to remove the old structures and to install the new structures. Excavation for structures would be no more than 1.5 feet beyond the length and 1 foot beyond the width of the existing footings, totaling between one to two cubic yards.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** North Coast Redwoods District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

Class: 1, 2, 3, 4

Section: 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

Project consists of the minor alteration of existing facilities involving no expansion of use (included as "trail or road repairs" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4); replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small structures; and minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**CONTACT:** Valerie Gizinski  
Sector Environmental Coordinator

**TELEPHONE:**(707) 464-6101, x5380  
**EMAIL:** valerie\_gizinski@partner.nps.gov

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**Richard Sermon  
SECTOR SUPERINTENDENT**

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**DATE**