

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: Wetlands Enhancement at Tule Elk Reserve State Park

LOCATION: Tule Elk Reserve State Park

COUNTY: Kern

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Enhance two pond stations with additional solar array panels, deeper wells and bigger well pumps to improve two existing ponds and establish a third pond in a former slough meander in the south central section of Tule Elk Reserve State Park to improve native wildlife habitat. Work will include installation of solar panels and pumps at two existing locations and add wire fencing around the second. Work will also establish a new pump/pond station to flood about one acre of a former slough meander. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for endangered San Joaquin kit fox, blunt nosed-leopard lizards, and Tipton kangaroo rats, per consultations with USFW and DFG. No cultural sites are located within 1000 feet of the ponds locations, however, archaeological and Native American construction monitoring will be included to ensure resource protection.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: South Sector, DPR Central Valley District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption

Class: 4 Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation that does not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees and is included as a "resource management project" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR 15300.4.

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Central Valley District

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Original signed by
James S. Wassmund, District Superintendent

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