

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: Piedras Blancas Acquisition

LOCATION: San Simeon State Park

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT

Acquire 20 acres of the Piedras Blancas property, located west of Highway 1 in northern San Luis Obispo County for inclusion into San Simeon State Park. The Piedras Blancas property is the last privately held half-mile within a contiguous stretch of State-owned coastline.

Piedras Blancas supports several types of coastal habitat, including open dunes, coastal scrub, and maritime chaparral which are known to provide important habitat for a wide variety of rare plants and animals, including the federally listed Western snow plover, the federally endangered California least tern, and the federally threatened Monterey spineflower. The classic marine terraces of the property support a variety of native wildflowers and the Arroyo del Corral Creek, one of two creeks on the property, drains into the ocean at the southern beach attracting birds and other wildlife to the freshwater resources.

This acquisition will protect this property in perpetuity as part of the State Park and will enhance public access on a scenic byway.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Luis Obispo Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Class: 4 Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of the acquisition of land in order to establish a park where the land is currently in, and will be kept in a natural condition, included as "acquisitions of contiguous properties" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

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Northern Service Center

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original signed by _____ 12-13-06

Stephen R. Lehman, Deputy Director
Acquisition and Development Division

Date