



## 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:** Headwaters Trail Accessibility Improvements

**LOCATION:** McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park    **COUNTY:** Shasta

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** This project retrofits the existing Headwaters Trail and creates two new trail spurs and structures necessary to meet accessibility requirements as stated in the “California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.”

Headwaters Trail Retrofit: Four project components are located along 3,261 feet of the existing Headwaters Trail. (1) South of Fisherman’s Parking Lot, retrofit a 2,626 foot long section of the Headwaters Trail and construct a new 120 square foot accessible trail segment terminus. Widen narrow locations along the trail segment to 36 inches. Install a new 15 foot long retaining wall at the terminus. Widening the trail and constructing the terminus require excavation and relocation of large rocks adjacent to the route. (2) On the segment of Headwaters Trail between the Falls Overlook and Fisherman’s parking lots, install on average four inches of an aggregate-enzymatic soil stabilizer mix necessary to establish a firm and stable surface. At an existing overlook along the trail, relocate two benches about one foot east. (3) Install a 51 foot long by four foot wide rock causeway and associated culverts at the beginning of Headwaters Trail to level the trail and establish a firm and stable surface. The causeway and culverts will be placed on the surface of the existing trail. (4) Along the 3,261 foot section of Headwaters Trail, install four new directional trail signs, three new interpretive signs, and one new bench.

Spur Trail From Headwaters Trail to New Fishing Pier: Construct a new 375 foot long by 48 inch wide accessible trail spur from the existing Headwaters Trail to a new 144 square foot accessible wooden fishing pier located along Burney Creek upstream of Burney Falls. Trail work includes removal of vegetation, installation of three sections of rock retaining wall ranging from 38 to 47 feet long, construction of a 220 foot long split rail fence, and removal of two sets of stairs leading from the Headwaters Trail to the new spur trail and historic pump house. The spur trail surface will be composed of native soil and on average four inches of an aggregate-enzymatic soil stabilizer mix to establish a firm, stable surface. Install the fishing pier using nine supporting beams anchored four feet in the ground with concrete. Install one new bench and interpretive sign on the fishing pier and a new directional sign at the intersection of the spur trail and Headwaters Trail. To eliminate a tripping hazard, the end of a small water pipe protruding from the historic stone pump house will be cut and removed.

Spur Trail from Headwaters Trail to New Overlook: Construct a new 381 foot long by 48 inch wide accessible trail spur from the existing Fisherman’s Parking Lot to a new 150 square-foot overlook adjacent to Burney Falls. Trail work includes relocation and removal of boulders, removal of vegetation, small bank cuts, installation of four sections of rock retaining wall ranging from 14 to 105 feet long, and installation of a 381 foot long split rail fence. The new trail surface will be composed of a soil base, aggregate, and asphalt. The Burney Falls overlook will be composed of materials that blend in with the surrounding natural environment and any metal pilings, footings, or railing will not be located such that they produce glare. Install a bench and interpretive sign at the overlook, two benches and an interpretive sign along the new trail spur, and two new directional signs near the trailhead at Fisherman’s Parking Lot. Adjacent to Fisherman’s Parking Lot, trail modifications include

removal and relocation of an existing eight foot section of split rail fence, relocation of the Fisherman's Bridge trailhead and sign, removal of 240 square feet of old asphalt trail, installation of a new accessible drinking fountain, and relocation of two accessible parking signs. The drinking fountain will be hooked up to an existing water supply at Fisherman's Parking Lot by a new pipe installed in a trench approximately 45 feet long by 2 feet deep by eight inches wide. Place several large boulders in Fisherman's Parking Lot in front of the newly relocated trail head for the overlook and Fisherman's Bridge to prevent vehicles from blocking the trail entrance.

Avoidance Measures: Activities will be conducted in keeping with avoidance measures defined by DPR environmental specialists during project review. Ground-disturbing activities will be restricted to the footprints of the existing Headwaters Trail and stairs, and previously described new construction areas. Construction activities on or adjacent to historic resources will be monitored by and at the discretion of a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist. Ground-disturbing work will be monitored by and at the discretion of a DPR-qualified archaeologist. In the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project construction, work will cease at the location of the find until a DPR-qualified archaeologist has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment and disposition of the artifact(s).

The project will comply with permits and approvals required by other state and federal agencies and will not impact Northern spotted owls. No healthy, mature scenic trees will be removed as part of the project. Where possible, native soil and rock from the footprint of the proposed trails will be used for trail base and rock work. Best Management Practices will be used during construction activities and incorporated in the project design to control erosion and sediment runoff. When necessary to import materials, local soil and rock that blends with the natural park environment will be used.

Construction equipment is limited to small all-terrain vehicles, power wheelbarrows, vibration plates, and hand tools. Construction equipment and materials staging and storage areas will be restricted to existing graded gravel and paved surfaces. The Department will dispose of asphalt and any other hazardous substances in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Acquisition and Development

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

Classes: 1, 3, 4, 31

Sections: 15301, 15303, 15304, 15331

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

Project consists of minor alteration of existing public facilities, structures, and topographic features involving no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and installation of a limited number of new small facilities; minor alterations in the condition of land that does not involve removal of healthy, mature scenic trees; and construction on a historic building that will not adversely affect its historic significance; included as: "fence building and handicap access," "interpretive panels, signs, fencing, and utility connections," "trail construction," and "activities affecting a historic resource in a manner consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Weeks and Grimmer 1995); on the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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Original Signed By

Christina M. Aceituno                      Date  
Accessibility Section Manager