

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX (916) 323-3018

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Install Bench on Middle Beach Trail
LOCATION: Carmel River State Beach, Highway One
COUNTY: Monterey

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Install new bench on the trail in the Middle Beach area of Carmel River State Beach using funds donated for this purpose.

Phase I: Conduct an archaeological investigation to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources in the immediate project area. The project's Area of Direct Impact (ADI) as well as nearly the entire Middle Beach area lies within the Ohlone Cultural Preserve, designated by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to protect five archaeological sites and, "provide for recognition of significant cultural resource values." Non-native vegetation (iceplant) in the ADI will be removed, 4 small holes will be excavated for concrete footings, and decomposed granite will be imported to create a base layer. A DPR Archaeologist will be notified when project work is to begin and will inspect site when vegetation is removed and before bench is installed. This investigation will aid in determining whether the project will have an impact on the cultural resources in the area. If testing indicates potentially significant cultural resources are present in the ADI, then measures to avoid adverse effects on these resources will be developed prior to approval of Phase II. No activities with potentially adverse environmental effects associated with this project will be approved or implemented.

Phase II: If no potentially significant cultural resources are found in the ADI during Phase I the Department may proceed with the following project activities:

Install new, undecorated 78-inch long redwood bench on flat area approximately 12 inches off the trail surface, anchored with concrete footings 4 inches high by 7 inches wide. Clear spaces, dimension and design of bench will be in keeping with the *Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* (99AG-16.12.6).

Ground disturbance will be minimal. If determined necessary by a DPR Environmental Scientist, the project area will be re-vegetated with appropriate native plant species.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Monterey District

EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption Classes: 3 & 6 Sections: 15303 & 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource, and construction of a limited number of new, small structures, included as "archaeological investigations by Department staff," and "installation of park facilities" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR 15300.4.

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/s/

Mathew Fuzie
Monterey District Superintendent

Date