

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: Remove Invasive Aquatic Weeds

LOCATION: Emerald Bay, D.L. Bliss, Sugar Pine Point State Parks, Kings Beach & Tahoe State Recreation Areas      COUNTY: El Dorado and Placer

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Remove Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and other invasive aquatic weed (IAW) species from Lake Tahoe at Emerald Bay, D.L. Bliss, Sugar Pine Point, Kings Beach, Tahoe State Recreation Areas, lands adjacent to Lake Tahoe. IAW species will be removed by hand in areas of light infestation or satellite colonies to prevent establishment of new colonies. Diver assisted suction method will be used in areas of small to moderate sized infestations. Project-related turbidity will be localized with no permanent impact to clarity. Removal of EWM will be determined by site conditions and infestation size. Monitoring of the infested sites will include rebar monuments placed on the lake bottom for photo points, transects and/or quadrants. Staging area requirements for removal of IAW species will depend on the removal methods. Boats and garbage dumpsters will be used in removing medium to large infestations. For small infestations, divers will hand-remove plants from locations along the beach and dispose of the biomass in vehicles parked nearby.

Project activities will be conducted under the following conditions: (1) Staging sites will be placed to avoid Tahoe Yellow Cress; (2) Park unit staff, Maintenance Chief(s) and Environmental Specialists will be notified before commencement of project activities; (3) State Archaeologist or his/her designee will conduct underwater archaeological survey along the shoreline of Sugar Pine Point, D.L. Bliss, Kings Beach and Tahoe State Recreation Areas to a maximum depth of 15 feet below lake surface to identify potentially significant submerged prehistoric resources; (4) A pre-start meeting will be scheduled with the District Archaeologist, Project Manager and dive crew; (5) If submerged cultural resources are identified during treatment, the crew will contact the Project Manager and/or District Archaeologist prior to removal of plants; (6) Removal of plants around previously identified archaeological features will be conducted by hand with as minimal disturbance as possible.

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

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

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption

Class: 4      Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of minor alteration in the condition of the land, water and vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, included as a "resource management project" on the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCRS 15300.4.

CONTACT: Diane Cassano  
Sierra District

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Original Signed By  
Ken Anderson, Acting District Superintendent

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