

**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:** Geotechnical Investigation

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Excavate nine test holes along the Falls Loop Trail between the first and second switchbacks that are below the entrance of the trail. The primary purpose of the excavations is to evaluate soil and substrate composition in preparation of a proposed project for rock wall repair and new construction.

Excavations will be conducted along the sides of the trail outside of the trail footprint. Holes will be dug manually with hand tools and each hole will not exceed five feet long by 15 inches wide by four feet deep. Excavation within the Root Health Zone of large trees will not sever roots equal or greater than two inches in diameter. The surface layer of vegetative duff litter and soil will be removed and set aside to be replaced on top of the refilled holes after testing. In addition, excavated soil will be replaced in reverse order after each evaluation is complete.

The Falls Loop Trail will remain open during excavation. Temporary signs will be placed along the trail and protective equipment will be set up around the holes to protect park visitors from potential hazards. Ground-disturbing work will be monitored by a Native American descendant. 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 artifacts(s).

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Northern Service Center

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

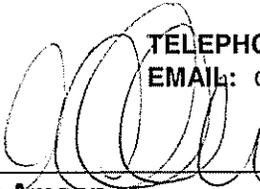
Categorical Exemption                      Class: 6                      Section: 15306

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

The project consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in major disturbance to an environmental resource and that is part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved or adopted. These activities are included as "information collection" on the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of except activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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Northern Service Center

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Kathy Amann  
Service Center Manager

05/25/07  
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DATE

