

**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: Core Area Accessibility Improvements Project

LOCATION: Big Basin Redwoods State Park

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project improves existing and installs new facilities in the Core Area at Big Basin Redwoods State Park to meet accessibility requirements as stated in the "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines." Remove curbs about 400 ft in length and uneven paved surfaces of parking areas, driveway, picnic area, amphitheater, and paved/dirt surfaces of pedestrian walkways totaling about 25,500 ft² in size at the Sempervirons Room (Visitor Center), Redwood Loop Parking, Nature Center/General Store/Museum, and Campfire Center/Opal Creek Restroom areas. Grade surfaces; install approximately 800 ft of curb/curb cuts and 27,000 ft² of firm, even surfaces; re-stripe parking areas; and install parking signs. Apply a new slurry coat to existing paved surfaces totaling about 4,000 ft² in size. Replace three drinking water fountain/dry well facilities, including faucets and underground utility connections and install an approximately 100 ft² firm, even surface around each faucet. Other project components include:

- Sempervirons Room/Visitor Center and Redwood Loop Parking Area: At the Sempervirons Room, replace an approximately 400 ft² restroom with a restroom approximately the same size and capacity. Install a new seating wall about 80 ft long by 2 ft high by 2 ft wide. Replace the approximately 1,000 ft² accessible pedestrian ramp to the deck and stair tread; mount new handrails on the ramp/stairs; and widen the door sill of the Sempervirons Room entrance by about 2 ft.
- Nature Center/General Store/Museum Area: Retrofit exterior doors with new hardware and replace outdoor log benches and picnic tables with accessible furniture. Replace a 360 ft² deck ramp with an approximately 450 ft² ramp and replace an approximately 100 ft long by 4 ft high split rail fence. Remove bottom steps from deck stairs, raise ground level to base of staircase, and install new hand rails.
- Campfire Center/Opal Creek Restroom Area: Remove log seats in the amphitheater audience area and install four 30 ft² accessible seating pads with a firm, even surface. Install two approximately 10 ft long by 8 ft high by 1 ft wide stage walls and a new, approximately 200 ft² stage ramp. Renovate interior of Opal Creek Restroom and replace underground utility connections. Replace outdoor benches near restroom with accessible furniture.

Remove approximately seven trees to replace restroom, parking areas, and walkways. Install utility connections in trenches about 30 ft long by 2 ft wide. Depth of soil disturbance will be up to 4 ft. DPR-approved standard project requirements have been incorporated into the Core Area Accessibility Improvements Project. A list of project-specific project requirements can be viewed by contacting the environmental coordinator listed below.

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 Classes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 Sections: 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304, 15311

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of repair and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible expansion of use; replacement of existing structures/facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity; construction and location of limited numbers of new small facilities or structures; minor public alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing facilities; included as "modifications of existing facilities for handicap access," and "trail or road repairs" and "installation of signs" in the Department of Parks and Recreation list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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Environmental Coordinator

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Acquisition and Development

DATE
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