

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

PROJECT TITLE: Water System Repairs at Basalt Campground and San Luis Creek
LOCATION: San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area **COUNTY:** Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

At Basalt Campground and Day Use Areas:

Replace existing water filtration system at the water treatment plant in the day use area. Work includes adding a new inlet line to existing water tank, installing isolation valves in the existing system, and installing a radio telemetry system between the water storage tank, treatment plant, and Park Headquarters. A total of approximately 600 linear feet of trenching will be necessary at the Basalt Water Tank. The water supply will be shut down during construction. Project includes minor excavation in the grassy area near the Basalt Tank inlet to remove existing valves. A new valve will be installed near the Basalt Tank, just off the pavement, and two new valves will be installed in the existing system at the campground, reducing the number of valves in the system and eliminating the necessity of maintenance activities outside the developed area near the tank.

At San Luis Creek Campground and Day Use Areas:

Replace deteriorated water treatment plant building, upgrade old filtration system and replace existing twin redwood tanks with bolted steel tanks. Scarify and recompact upper 8 inches of subgrade within the tank pad footprint. Excavate approximately 1,560 cubic yards (c.y.) of existing fill below the treatment plant building; remove juniper shrubs; recompact and add approximately 2,600 c.y. of engineered fill beneath the building foundation. Install new chlorine booster pump station at the campground water storage tank, and install new electrical connection in the existing road/shoulder from power pole to tank to serve the booster pump station. Repair electrical line between the tank and the existing booster pump station. Install radio telemetry system between the water storage tank, the treatment plant, and Park Headquarters. The existing water treatment facility, the campground, and the day use area will remain in operation during construction of the new facility.

Staging and laydown yards will be restricted to paved surfaces. Department-approved Best Management Practices will be implemented to avoid creation of temporary unstable soil conditions, increased erosion (including wind erosion), or stormwater runoff, for stockpile management, and for spill prevention from vehicle and equipment fluids, asphalt, and any other construction materials. In areas where the project activities leave bare soil, long-term erosion control measures will be implemented. The soil will be properly compacted and revegetated with native or sterile grass seed selected or approved by the Sector Environmental Scientist. Grass seed originally collected from the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valleys will be acceptable. To avoid the spread of non-native invasive plants, all vehicles will arrive free and clear of dirt and seeds.

The Department will avoid impacts to San Joaquin Kit Fox that may move through the project area by incorporating US Fish and Wildlife Service Standard Avoidance and Mitigation Measures for this species. Two of the nine USFWS-required measures include preconstruction surveys and notification of the USFWS if a kit fox is encountered. Prior to any work anticipated during the raptor breeding season (February 1 – August 31), the Department will conduct preconstruction surveys to located any bird nests within one quarter mile of construction activities. If nests are located, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet (250 feet for Swainson's hawks) around active nests will be delineated and observed. Juniper shrubs will be replaced with native plant species.

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: 1,2,4 Sections: 15301, 15302, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of repairs and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; replacement of existing structures and facilities where the new structure is located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; and minor alterations to land, water, and/or vegetation, in accordance with CCR§ 15300.4.

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Date