State of California **CEQA 8018**
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: Test Well Drilling Project
LOCATION: Mendocino Woodlands State Park **COUNTY:** Mendocino County

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Drill up to five test wells to locate a new water source for park uses. Drill sites include up to two at Campground 1, two at Campground 2, and one at Camp 3. Well driller will also estimate well yields and collect preliminary water quality information.

Drilling equipment includes a truck with a mounted drill rig positioned on bare ground within a 20 foot radius of the drill hole. Drill sites will be accessed by existing park roads and are all positioned at least 100 feet away from any waterway. Drill test well holes using the air rotary method. Backfill with cement-bentonite slurry or sleeve and cap drill hole when work is completed at each site, depending where usable sources of water is found. All drilling fluids will be contained on site. There is the possibility that subsurface conditions will require changing to mud rotary method, which will also require a Spill Prevention Plan. Remove and dispose of any debris and excess water from drill holes off site out at an approved disposal facility.

DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist will be on site to monitor drill rig access to sites and all ground disturbing activities. DPR-qualified biologist will monitor drilling activities to ensure work avoids impacts to redwood trees and Northern red-legged frog and other amphibians; any open holes will be covered overnight to prevent animals from becoming entrapped. To avoid impacts to other sensitive species such as northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, adhere to all federal and State laws regarding these species. Protective equipment will be set up at work sites and access roads as needed to prevent park visitors from accessing drill sites.

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: Project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. These activities are included as "soils and structural engineering tests" on the Department of Parks and Recreation List of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Heidi West
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Northern Service Center

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12/13/2007

Kathy Amann **DATE**
Service Center Manager

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