



State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX (916) 323-3018

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Carmelo Meadow and Granite Point Trails Accessibility Improvements

**LOCATION:** Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Perform upgrades to Carmelo Meadow Trail and Granite Point Trail at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve to meet standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to repair deficiencies associated with normal wear and initial design and layout. Upgrade trail surface to a firm and stable surface by installing compacted aggregate base along the entire length of Carmelo Meadow Trail (1,553') and Granite Point Trail (1,780'). Use existing native soil to supplement aggregate base where possible and to blend trail into the surrounding natural setting. Widen trail to a maximum width of 4 feet where needed. Decompact and re-vegetate existing eroded areas, areas of ground disturbance associated with this project, and abandoned trail section along Granite Point Trail. Install new small trail signs on 4"x" redwood posts at beginning and end points of each trail. Additional work on each trail includes the following:

Carmelo Meadow Trail: Reconstruct trail surface as necessary to eliminate obstructions greater than 2" in height, establish a consistent 5% cross-slope (or 2" crown in flat areas), and remove any down slope berms that have been built up over time. Construct rock causeway and drainage lenses in boggy areas and armored drain crossings in areas where small drainages cross trail. Remove rock edging in locations where it impedes natural drainage or causes and erosion. Clean-out existing culverts and reconstruct drainage swales as necessary. Remove small culverts and install drainage lenses as needed to promote better drainage across the trail. Remove existing steps and install approach ramps to bridge constructed of rock. Ramps will be approximately 25 ft long by 4 feet wide and be located on each side of bridge. Replace bridge decking with 3" (thick) redwood decking.

Granite Point Trail: Reconstruct trail surface as necessary to eliminate entrenchment, improve sheet drainage, and eliminate vertical obstructions. Remove wooden water bars/steps. Construct rock causeway and drainage lenses across boggy areas to avoid saturation of trail surface. Remove an existing culvert that is causing erosion and replace it with a puncheon and rock lined / re-vegetated channel. Replace and reconstruct the existing bridge at Carmelo Meadow. New bridge will be constructed to match the existing structure. Replace culvert and headwall located 1,075' from the trail head and replace a rotten puncheon 1,225' from the trail head. Construct upslope water catchment berms above junction where trails meet to capture and infiltrate water before reaching trail. Re-align 75' feet of trail starting from 1,300' from the trail head to achieve accessible grade and repair erosion along existing trail alignment.

Construction activities will be monitored by and at the discretion of a DPR archaeologist. DPR archaeologist will conduct archaeological survey and recordation of cultural sites following removal of vegetation associated with trail upgrades in archaeological sensitive areas.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Monterey District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**  Categorical Exemption *Classes: 1, 3, 4 Sections: 15301, 15303, 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of repair and minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and vegetation that does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as "modifications of existing facilities for handicap purposes," "trail or road repairs," "installation of park facilities such as signs," and "trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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Monterey District

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Original signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathew Fuzie Date  
Monterey District Superintendent