

**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: Reroute Hazard Peak & East Boundary Trails

LOCATION: Montaña de Oro State Park

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo County

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Reroute a steep, approximately 1300 foot (ft) long portion of the East Boundary Trail and approximately 3,000 ft. portion of the Hazard Peak Trail at Montaña de Oro State Park to address erosion and user impacts to plant species and to continue to operate the trail for multiple recreational user groups. Abandoned portions of the trails will be closed and restored to pre-disturbed condition with native vegetation.

Approximately 2,500 ft. of the Old Manzanita trail has been closed where there is presence of listed plant species. In this closed section, repair up to 10 brush boxes by replacing rotted or loose baffle boards and place brush and tree cuttings in the abandoned trail head to impede illegal trail use and allow for revegetation of native plant species.

Approximately 2,500 ft. of the Hazard Peak trail will be closed due to severe erosion and gulying along the steep portions of this ridge alignment. Hazard Peak Trail will be realigned to the north and work will involve trail brushing (removing poison oak and non-sensitive plant material), bench cutting and out sloping of the trail tread (trail grading and cutting), and installation of switch backs, along an approximately 3,000 foot section of the reroute. The maximum tread of the rerouted section will be 4 feet wide and will be built to DPR Trails Handbook specifications. Install up to 10 closed trail signs on 7 foot tall, 4 inch diameter steel posts buried in 24 inch, 8 inch diameter holes, backfilled with native soils, along the abandoned sections of both trails.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Luis Obispo Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Classes: 1 & 4 Section: 15301, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: This project consists of the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographic features involving no expansion of use beyond that existing; minor public alterations in the condition of land, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as "trail or road repairs" and "trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator
San Luis Obispo Coast District

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Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent

DATE 4/21/09