

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
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: Vegetation Removal and Prescribed Burn

LOCATION: Calaveras Big Trees State Park

COUNTY: Calaveras & Tuolumne

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Remove vegetation and conduct prescribed burn in the areas known as Bigtree National Forest (BTNF) and North Grove sites at Calaveras Big Trees State Park to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve native forest composition and structure.

BTNF: Work will manually remove woody debris on 35 acres in BTNF; place debris in 5'X5' piles; and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Rake duff down to mineral soil approximately 10' around the base of old growth sugar pine trees greater than 40" diameter at breast height (DBH) to prevent high intensity heating and scorching during prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 35 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn.

North Grove: Work will manually remove shrubs, shade-tolerant trees less than 6" DBH, and all dead and diseased vegetation, on 125 acres in North Grove. Place fuels in 5'X5' piles; and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 125 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Central Valley District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Classes: 1, 4 Sections: 15301, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of maintenance or minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination; and minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as "prescribed burns to maintain native vegetation" and "prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR§ 15300.4.

CONTACT: Heather M Reith, DEC
Central Valley District

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Original Signed By:
Jess C. Cooper, District Superintendent

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