



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  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Trail Accessibility Improvements

**LOCATION:** Van Damme State Park      **COUNTY:** Mendocino

### DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Upgrade the Fern Canyon Trail and Pygmy Forest parking lot in Van Damme State Park to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and meet requirements in the "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines". Work will:

At the Fern Canyon Trail

- Excavate up to four (4) holes 24" deep and 6" wide to install and/or reinstall signage along the trail.
- Restripe parking lot and delineate ADA parking area.
- Excavate up to eight (8) holes 12" deep and 10" wide to replace four interpretive panels.
- Excavate to remove approximately 2500 cubic feet of dirt (old slide material) to level trail.
- Excavate approximately 2' deep to install beams and lagging to build a 6' long, by 4' high (above ground) wooden retaining wall.
- Import rock and aggregate to reconstruct six approaches totaling an estimated 4,500 square feet.
- Remove existing asphalt sections then place 5,000 square feet of compacted aggregate to level the trail.
- Add aggregate and small rocks to elevate three sections of trail to improve drainage.
- Place two benches along the trail corridor.
- Place willow cuttings at approximately three locations on the banks along the trail.

At the Pygmy Forest Parking Lot

- Excavate an area 16' long by 7' wide by 5' deep in order to place a single vault toilet (CXT type).
- Construct a 16' long by 4' wide by 4" deep concrete strip between the existing asphalt parking lot and new vault toilet building.
- Restripe parking lot and delineate ADA parking area.
- Excavate two holes up to 24" deep and 6" wide to relocate the interpretive kiosk closer to the parking area.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Acquisition and Development

**EXEMPT STATUS:**  Categorical Exemption Classes: 1, 2, 3, 4    *Sections: 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the repair, maintenance and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible expansion of use beyond current levels, the replacement of existing structure and facility where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, the construction or installation of limited numbers of new, small facilities, and the minor alteration in the condition of land that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees included as "modifications of existing facilities for disabled access" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

**CONTACT:** Stephanie Coleman  
Northern Service Center

**PHONE NO.:** (916) 445-8779

**EMAIL:** [stephanie.coleman@parks.ca.gov](mailto:stephanie.coleman@parks.ca.gov)

  
Jennifer Harris, Chief  
Accessibility Section

4.1.14  
Date

