

**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
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT TITLE: Accessibility Improvements

LOCATION: Fort Ross State Historic Park

COUNTY: Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Improve various facilities at Fort Ross State Historic Park to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and current Public Health and Safety standards. Work will:

Visitor Center Exterior (VC) and Parking

- Remove existing asphalt concrete (AC) parking spaces and construct 5 new concrete ADA parking spaces, Four spaces will be located in front of the VC and one (van accessible) space will be located at day use ADA picnic sites;
- Excavate up to 8" and construct new 8' wide concrete (4" concrete over 4" AB) sidewalk from 4 new ADA parking stalls at VC to entry plaza;
- Construct 5 approximately 15'x15' compliant picnic sites with concrete pads;
- Reconfigure and construct new concrete entry plaza and route in front of VC;
- Modify curbs and reconfigure planting island to improve drainage at inlet in front of VC;
- Remove existing and install new benches at end of VC entrance;
- Reconstruct wooden ramp on south-east side of building to accessibility standards, remove AC path at base of ramp and construct new concrete path connector to Fort Ross trail;
- Remove AC ramp and construct new concrete staircase with metal handrails on south-east side of building to Fort Ross Trail;
- Excavate post holes up to 2' diameter and 3' in depth and reinstall outdoor interpretive display shelter near VC and install a 5' wide concrete pad;
- Excavate post holes up to 2' diameter and 3' depth and install directional signage around VC as necessary;

Fort Ross Trail (Concrete)

- Remove existing 2200 lf AC trail from VC at the service road adjacent to Fort Ross compound and replace with colored concrete trail over footprint of existing AC trail; reroute approximately 300' trail to meet accessibility grade standards;
- Remove approximately 30 small sapling, (<3"), 20 mid-sized Monterey Cypress (3"-18" dbh) and 10 dead Monterey Cypress;
- Construct new compacted aggregate base (AB) entry landing into north entry of the Fort from trail;
- Trim bottom of the north entrance gates 12-18" to accommodate new AB entry landing;
- Upgrade 200 lf and modify horizontal grades of the AC service road below west corner of the fort to accommodate new parking stall;
- Construct new AB path from existing service road/turn-around at west entrance to Fort;
- Construct a new concrete ADA van parking stall at terminus of concrete trail with a connector path to new trail;
- Remove and replace 3 benches along trail to ADA compliant models;
- Upgrade 3 interpretive displays along trail and install miscellaneous directional signage;

Call House Trail

- Construct approximately 800 lf of new 4' wide natural hardened surface accessible trail from VC to service road outlet at Call House;
- Construct dry stack rock retaining wall in locations necessary to provide tread width and 1.5% cross-slope, construct rock causeway and puncheon where necessary to span wet areas;
- Recontour and revegetate existing Call House Trail, replace fencing as necessary;
- Construct new (approx.) 75'X100' group picnic pad surfaced with 6" AB at existing group picnic location with 4"X6" redwood edging and wire screen underlayment;
- Construct 15'X15' single picnic pad with AB surface with 4"X6" redwood edging and wire screen underlayment;
- Install up to 10 compliant redwood picnic tables;
- Install compliant interpretive panel with level AB landing in front of Call House;

- Construct approx. 50' connector trail off Fort Ross Trail to VC with wood or rock steps ;
- Excavate post holes up to 2' diameter and 3' depth and install miscellaneous directional signage at trailheads.

Fort Ross

- Construct approximately 1500 lf of stabilized soil pathways between gates and buildings on the interior of the Fort;
- Rochev House, Barracks and Church - Modify sloped entrances to 5% or less, install level landings, and install wood beveled thresholds at doors;
- Warehouse - Modify sloped entry to 5% or less, install level landing at entrance, reconstruct/construct ramp and railing to rear door, install colored nosing on top and bottom of interior stairs, install handrails to interior stairs, install railing with 4" opening on all interior balcony and stair handrails
- Restroom – Demolish existing restrooms, remove existing holding tank and backfill with approved material native to the area and compacted to 95%;
- Excavate to a depth of up to 8'-3" and an area of approximately 7'-10" x 12'-8" and install new 1500 gallon holding tank in hold Highway 1 southwest of the fort;
- Construct new wooden restrooms up to 14' x 18' (252 SF) and 15' in height, to accessible standards. Restrooms will be constructed of wood in the location of the existing restrooms and holding tanks.

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: 1, 2, 3, and 4 Section: 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the minor alteration of existing public facilities and topographic features involving negligible expansion of use beyond current levels; replacement of existing structures/facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity; construction of new small facilities or structures and the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures, minor public alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; included as "modifications of existing facilities for handicap access", "installation of park facilities such as signs and restrooms," and "trail construction ore realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR 15300.4..

CONTACT: Brad Michalk
Northern Service Center

TELEPHONE: (916) 445-8783

EMAIL: bmichalk@parks.ca.gov

JM Harris
for J.M. Harris

Jennifer Harris
Chief, Accessibility Section

DATE 4/20/12

