

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:** Tuolumne

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Remove vegetation and conduct prescribed burn in the area known as Big Tree National Forest (BTNF) at Calaveras Big Trees State park to reduce the threat of disease, wildfire, and improve native forest composition and structure.

Work will:

- Set up fixed-radius plots and take measurements on fuels, stand density and species composition;
- flag any special resources to be protected; mark and cut trees to thin 335 acres of mixed conifer forest to reduce ladder and canopy fuels, and overall stand density;
- retain all giant sequoia, black oak, and sugar pines, quality downed logs and snags for wildlife habitat, and all live trees > 8" diameter at breast height;
- remove hazardous large snags;
- clear heavy fuels around trunks of giant sequoias, sugar pines, and trees with catfaces by raking a clearance around trees;
- burn piles in the appropriate season and weather conditions with burn permits and smoke management permit from Cal Fire and Calaveras Air Pollution Control District;
- and conduct a final prescribed broadcast burn over the total area.

Halt work and contact a California State Park's Archaeologist in case of accidental discovery of cultural resources.

**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

Class: 1 & 4

Section: 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 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*

**TELEPHONE:** (209) 536-2887  
**EMAIL:** hreith@parks.ca.gov

Signature on original

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**Jess C. Cooper, District Superintendent**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_