



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Repair Historic Masonry

**LOCATION:** Palomar Mountain State Park, Nate Harrison Grade and State Park Road   **COUNTY:**  
**San Diego**

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

Repair deteriorating and damaged rock features and structures constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s at campsites 27, 28, and 29 in the Doane Valley Campground at Palomar Mountain State Park. This repair project will be completed as a hands-on training class sponsored by Mott Training Center with technical assistance provided by National Parks Service masonry repair specialists and experienced State Parks maintenance staff. Campsite 28 rock features were heavily damaged by a tree fall in 2007. The work at Campsite 28 will be completed in several phases as it is beyond the scope of the training class to complete all repairs in three days.

Cultural staff (Associate State Archaeologist and/or State Historian II) will be present on site during project. Photo-documentation before, during, and after the project will be completed. No disturbance to mature native vegetation will result from the project.

The scope of work is as follows:

1. Campsite 27: Replace and repair 2 discontinuous 6-foot-long by approximately 3-foot high sections of missing rock retaining wall fronting the campground road. Replacement rock will be obtained from the adjacent drainage where it appears many of the wall rocks came to rest after being eroded from the wall sections.
2. Campsite 29: Reestablish stones on existing bedrock footing at base of stair and for a short distance along adjacent wall that fronts the campground road. Re-establish rock wall corner on right front of the stair. Re-bed the rock and mortar on the second-level retaining wall on either side of the triple-trunk tree approximately 10 feet east of the stairs. Rocks salvaged from the damaged wall will be re-used during the reconstruction.
3. Campsite 28: Approximately 12 feet of historic stone masonry retaining wall fronting the campground road will be restored using rocks salvaged from the debris and stacked nearby. Any stone that cannot be salvaged will be replaced in-kind with similar stone. Remnant mortar will be removed where possible or thinned to an acceptable thickness for re-use. Clearing and excavation will cache the rock debris in locations near, as best as can be determined, original locations. Additional excavations will be conducted to uncover original foundations and footings with resulting dirt stockpiled nearby. The excavations will be conducted by State Parks archaeologists and qualified assistants under the direction of an Associate State Archaeologist. The work will be guided by historic photographs and drawings identified by State Historian II. At the completion of the clearing, a scope of work for the subsequent phases of rock feature repair and restoration will be developed with the National Parks Service and State Parks masonry experts. Subsequent repairs and replacements to the damaged or destroyed rock walls and other features will be carried out according to the scope of work. The work will be completed by the class trainees and qualified assistants. Additional guidance will be provided by Associate State Archaeologist and State Historian II as appropriate.

DPR-approved standard project requirements have been incorporated into this project. A copy of these requirements may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Colorado Desert

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Section )
- Categorical Exemption  
*Class: 31 Section(s): 15331*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2. Project is limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (class 31)

**CONTACT:** Gail Sevrens, District Environmental Coordinator      **PHONE NO.:** (760) 767-4315  
California Department of Parks & Recreation      **EMAIL:** gsevr@parks.ca.gov  
Colorado Desert District Headquarters  
200 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

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Michael L. Wells, Ph. D.  
District Superintendent  
Colorado Desert District

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Date