



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
Tehachapi District
15101 Lancaster Road
Lancaster, CA 93536

PROJECT TITLE: Closure and Restoration of Barnett's Opal Mine Primitive Route

LOCATION: Red Rock Canyon State Park

COUNTY: Kern

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

The project is the removal, closure and restoration of a ¼ mile primitive route that leads to Barnett's Surface Opal Mine within Red Rock Canyon State Park. The removal, closure and restoration will prevent vehicle access to Barnett's Surface Opal Mine and unauthorized vehicle access to the northwest corner of Section 18, Township 29 and Range 38 within the Park. The removal, closure and restoration of this primitive route will not limit or reduce connectivity to any other primitive routes within the Park. The removal, closure and restoration of this primitive route will occur at the entrance of Barnett's Surface Opal Mine and El Paso Canyon. The primitive route will be re-contoured and swales will be installed to pull the water off of the re-contoured area. Weed-free erosion control blankets and/or other erosion materials will be used to help stabilize the area. Vertical mulching will be used to reduce visual impacts of the project area. A 30' peeler post fence will be installed that will be tied into two existing peeler post fences within the area, one located to the west and one located to east.

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: Tehachapi

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
 Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
 Statutory Exemption (Section)
 Categorical Exemption
Class: 1, 3, 4 Section(s): 15301 15303 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2. If the project is implemented as indicated within the CDPR Project Evaluation Form including measures provided by CDPR staff, then it is exempt under CEQA §15301 – Existing Facilities, §15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land. The actions fall under the Departmental List of Exempt activities as established according to CEQA §15300.4 as:

- "Trail or road repairs" (Class 1, Section 15301);

- "Construction or installation of park facilities such as... fencing ..." (Class 3, Section 15303);
- "Project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees" (Class 4, Section 15304);
- "Project will result in the improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources" (Class 4, Section 15304d);
- "Temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment" (Class 4, Section 15304e); and
- "Surface restoration" (Class 4, Section 15304f)

CONTACT: Russ Dingman, District Environmental Coordinator **PHONE NO.:** (661) 724-2380
California Department of Parks & Recreation **EMAIL:** Russ.Dingman@parks.ca.gov
Tehachapi District Headquarters
15101 Lancaster Road
Lancaster, CA 93536

Kathy Weatherman

Kathy Weatherman
District Superintendent, Tehachapi District

4/2/13

Date