



**State of California – The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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: Sink Hole Repair and CCC Camp Interpretive Sign (13/14-OC-05)

LOCATION: San Clemente State Beach

COUNTY: Orange County

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Within San Clemente State Beach we have explored a large sinkhole that presents a public safety hazard. Although it is outside our campgrounds, it's within a fenced area, but is frequented by young off-trail users. While sinkholes are not a new erosion feature within this formation, the size and extent is alarming. The hole on the surface is about 6 feet across, while the hole below is room size. Excavation should not exceed 12' feet in depth.

We agree with our geologist that the best treatment is to expose the hole and soil piping, then refill and compact with existing material and grade the system with attention to surface hydrology. We plan to dig and expose all sinkholes and connecting soil voids before achieving fill and compaction. Using a 16' reach from an excavator, we can safely reach, expose, and compact the cave and piping system. Surface sheet flow will be split in three directions to divide the flow and help stabilize the area. Other surface work includes removal of exotic vegetation, and preparing the surface for native plant installation. We will salvage existing native plants, and reinstall along with others to hold earthwork.

An interpretive panel will also be created to interpret the old California Conservation Corps (CCC) campsite and the work that they completed. The installation of this panel will be near the day use parking lot.

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: California Department of Parks and Recreation

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption

Class: 3, 4 11

Section: 15303, 15304, 15311

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 specialists, then it is exempt under CEQA §15303 – New Construction, §15304 - Minor Alterations to Land, and §15311 – Accessory Structures. The actions fall under the Departmental List of Exempt activities as established according to CEQA §15300.4 as:

- "Construction or installation of park facilities such as... interpretive signing or panels" (Class 3, Section 15303);
- "Resource management projects" (Class 4, Section 15304); and
- "Installation of signs" (Class 11, Section 15311)

The project involves minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment. There is negligible expansion of existing use. The Project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees (class 4).

CONTACT: Julie Tobin, Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Orange Coast District
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San Clemente, CA 92672

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Brian Ketterer

District Superintendent
Orange Coast District

9-19-13

Date