



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 of Ruins Ridge Route

LOCATION: Red Rock Canyon State Park

COUNTY: Kern

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

The project is a public vehicle closure of a primitive route known as Ruins Ridge Route located within Red Rock Canyon State Park. The closure will prevent public vehicle access on Ruins Ridge Route and unauthorized vehicle access to a portion of the south west corner of the El Paso Mountains (Section 31, Township 29 and Range 38 and Section 6, Township 30 and Range 38). Ruins Ridge Route is a primitive route that provides no connections to any other primitive routes within the Park. There currently no other designated routes within this section of Park. The closure of this primitive route will occur at the very beginning of Ruins Ridge Route, located just west of El Paso Canyon Road. A 6 foot wide steel gate will be attached to galvanized poles that will be concreted into the ground. A protective peeler-post fence will extend north and south of the gate approximately 25 feet on each side of the gate to ensure that vehicles cannot drive around the gate. The proposed closure is necessary and is required to prevent ongoing natural and cultural resource damage, by vehicles traveling off-road and not staying on the designated route

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: 3, 4 Section(s): 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 §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:

- “Construction or installation of park facilities such as... fencing and gates...” (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