



## 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:** Habitat Restoration

**LOCATION:** Red Rock Canyon State Park

**COUNTY:** Kern

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

The project will restore habitat at 46 sites throughout the park in order to protect natural and cultural resources from continued damage. The sites include vehicle trespass routes, illegal camping areas, and other damaged areas where vegetation has been removed and soils are compacted or eroded. Without restoration, these desert habitats would require decades or centuries to recover. The "vertical mulch" technique will be used in which cut stems of shrubs will be planted, and "soil pitting" will be used where small holes (5 in. wide and 3 in. deep) will be dug in compacted soil. These techniques help to trap windblown seeds, retain moisture, and become nursery sites for natural plant recovery. Eroded areas will be restored by installing check dams. Newly restored sites will be protected by rock lines. The appearance of restored sites disguises old trespass routes and prevents further damage.

Planting holes will be dug by hand with post-hole diggers and shovels, or a power auger if needed. No heavy equipment will be used. Fencing will be installed in selected areas where the greatest resource damage has occurred. 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 and check dams" (Class 3, Section 15303);
- "Resource management projects", "stewardship projects", and "trail removal" (Class 4, Section 15304)

The project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees (Class 4)

**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*

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Kathy Weatherman  
District Superintendent, Tehachapi District

*9/10/14*

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Date