



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
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534

PROJECT TITLE: Desert Tortoise Interpretive Enclosure
LOCATION: Red Rock Canyon State Park **COUNTY:** Kern
DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

The project will install a desert tortoise enclosure, which will house a previous captive desert tortoise that was adopted from the Desert Tortoise Natural Area and permitted by the California Department of Fish and Game. The desert tortoise will be part of an outside living tortoise exhibit at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center. This will be an interpretive display, offering visitors a chance to see a desert tortoise in a "semi-natural habitat.

The 25' x15' enclosure will be located on south-east corner of the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center. The fencing will consist of lodge poles approximately 20" high and chicken wire secured to the peller posts by staples. A trenchline approximately 2 feet will be dug along the perimeter of the fence. The lodge poles and chicken wire will be installed to the depth of the trench to prevent the desert tortoise from digging out and/or causing any potential harm to the tortoise, which could result from the tortoise trying to push against the wire. The corner posts and support posts will be counter-sunk into the ground approximately 3 feet and then will be cut off at a maximum height of 3 feet from the level surface of the ground. The horizontal posts will be reinforced with 3/8 steel rods, which will be used to secured the posts together and provide strength to the enclosure. A diagonal hole, approximately 10" in diameter and 6 feet long will be dug by hand to provide that start of a borrow for the tortoise. A local herpetologist Dr. Henry Lunsford will be consulted as to the best placement of the burrow. Additional native plants will be planted to enhance the habitat of the enclosure and provide additional food sources and shade for the tortoise.

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 Section(s): 15303

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2. Consists of construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities (Class 3)

CONTACT: Russ Dingman, District Environmental Coordinator **PHONE NO.:** (661) 726-1672
California Department of Parks & Recreation **EMAIL:** rdingman@parks.ca.gov
Tehachapi District Headquarters
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534

Kathy Weatherman
District Superintendent, Tehachapi District

10/18/10

Date