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State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
7806 Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630

PROJECT TITLE: Prescribed Fire in Vernal Pool Management Area

LOCATION: Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area **COUNTY:** Sacramento

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:
Conduct prescribed burning on the 180-acre Vernal Pool Management areas within Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area, in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire), to train seasonal firefighters or burn crews from Cal-Fire and/or California State Parks and to reduce thatch cover of non-native vegetation including medusahead and yellow star thistle. Prescribed fire operations may occur in May/June and October/November. Work will:

- Utilize water trucks and Type III fire engines during firing operations to help control and direct prescribed fire;
- Use black lines around areas to be burned and burn in strips or blocks;
- Stage fire trucks and engines along roads and not in the vernal pool areas; and
- As needed, use buffers to protect vernal pools, seasonal wetlands or other sensitive resources and use hand tools to create narrow fire lines ("scratch lines") in selected areas.

Any use of heavy equipment will be conducted under the supervision of a State Park Environmental Scientist.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Gold Fields District

EXEMPT STATUS:
☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 4 Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and is included as "Prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

CONTACT: Jim Micheaels, Gold Fields District **EMAIL:** jim.micheaels@parks.ca.gov
PHONE: (916) 988-0205

___Original Signature on File_____
Barry C. Smith, District Superintendent (Acting) Date