

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: Mammoth Recovery Project

LOCATION: [Great Valley Grasslands State Park](#)

COUNTY: Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The remains of a Columbian mammoth have been identified at Great Valley Grasslands State Park. The purpose of this project is to recover the fossilized remains of a Columbian mammoth eroding out of the south bank of San Joaquin River, along the northern boundary of Great Valley Grasslands. Project work is as follows:

The remains are entombed in loose fine sandstone/siltstone and will require stabilization before removal. Hand tools will be used to remove sediment around the bones for approximately 15-20 centimeters. The goal being to excavate a surface area past the bone material by 3-5 centimeters. The excavation will move vertically down so that each bone or bone sequence is in an isolated block. The block will be undercut, leaving an attached pedestal. Once isolated, strips of burlap soaked in plaster of paris will be draped around the pedestal forming a hard case and, once dried, the pedestal will be cut through and the bottom plastered over. Smaller specimens will be wrapped in aluminum foil and closed with duct tape.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Central Valley District


EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Class: 4 & 6 Section: 15304, 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural resources, included as "Resource Management Projects" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4, and consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and is included as "Archaeological Investigations by permitted individuals and/or universities" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

CONTACT: Andrew Collum, DEC
Central Valley District

TELEPHONE: (209) 536-2658
EMAIL: Andrew.Collum@parks.ca.gov


Danielle Gerhart, District Superintendent
DATE 5/17/21