



**State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Santa Cruz District
303 Big Trees Road
Felton, CA 95018

PROJECT TITLE: Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park River House Leech Field Replacement

LOCATION: Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project consists of replacing a failing septic system at the River House in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park to allow for continued use of the house for staff housing. The existing septic tank will be abandoned in place. Project will:

- Excavate and install new 1,500-gallon low profile fiberglass tank on a bed of sand and backfill over the tank;
- Install extensions to the tank to bring access lids up to grade;
- Excavate to install a distribution fitting and two (2) 30-foot leech fields;
- Install three (3) 12-inch inspection ports, one (1) at the end of each 30-foot drain field and one (1) inspection port at the distribution fitting;
- Cover leech field with filter fabric and backfill to grade with native soil;
- Use remaining native soil to backfill over old tank site; and
- Bring site to final grade.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Santa Cruz District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption *Class:* 1, 3 & 4 *Section:* 15301, 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of operation, repair, and maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels, and is included as “utility repairs or minor upgrades” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4; construction and location of new, small facilities or structures; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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Chris Spohrer

11/5/25

Chris Spohrer
District Superintendent
Santa Cruz District

DATE