

District Project # 730-316-20250317  
CEQA # 14423



State of California – The Resources Agency  
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  
Central Valley District  
22708 Broadway Street  
Columbia, CA 95310

**PROJECT TITLE:** George Hatfield Welcome Map Panel

**LOCATION:** George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area

**COUNTY:** Merced

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Project proposes to install a new bilingual welcome map panel at George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area to greet and orient visitors upon arrival at the park. The new map panel will be installed near the existing restroom in the Day Use Area on an existing level surface that is large enough for park visitors using wheelchairs to approach and view unhindered. Work will:

- Excavate two (2) 18-in. x 24-in. deep holes and set sonotube forms;
- Pour concrete into the forms and set brackets;
- Once concrete is dry, attach the map panel posts to the brackets; and
- Spread excavated soils around the project area, filling in low areas.

**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:**

X Categorical Exemption

Class: 1, 3 & 4

Section: 15301, 15303 & 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, included as "Construction or installation of park facilities, such as signing or panels" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4; and consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**CONTACT:** Andrew Collum, DEC  
Central Valley District

**PHONE NO.:** (209) 768-2492

**EMAIL:** [Andrew.Collum@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Collum@parks.ca.gov)

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gerhart".  
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12/16/2025

Danielle Gerhart  
District Superintendent  
Central Valley District

DATE