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District Project # 730-310-20250317
CEQA # 14394

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
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: McConnell State Park Welcome Map Panels

LOCATION: McConnell State Recreation Area **COUNTY:** Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project proposes to install a new bilingual welcome map panel at McConnell State Recreation Area to greet and orient visitors upon arrival at the park. The new map panel will be installed in the Swimming Beach Trailhead 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:
☒ 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

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2/3/2026

Danielle Gerhart DATE
District Superintendent
Central Valley District