



State of California – The Natural 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  
Bay Area District  
845 Casa Grande Road  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**PROJECT TITLE:** Robert Ferguson Observatory Accessibility Improvements

**LOCATION:** Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

**COUNTY:** Sonoma

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The purpose of this project is to perform maintenance and modifications at the Robert Ferguson Observatory at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park to improve access for individuals with disabilities and to improve the safety and to meet current ADA standards. Project will:

- Add one (1) van accessible parking space with wheel stop and accessibility signage;
- Reconstruct the existing ramps, landings and stairs to a 6-ft width;
- Add 42-inch guards along the ramps and landings and install handrails on both sides of the ground level exterior route;
- Add a 6-foot-wide route of travel from the new ADA parking space to the reconstructed ramp; and
- Enlarge the Dome Wing by up to 134 square feet.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Bay Area District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

☒ Categorical Exemption

*Class:* 1 & 2

*Section:* 15301 & 15302

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

**CONTACT:** Caitlin Powers  
Bay Area District

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A blue ink signature of Maria Mowrey.

Maria Mowrey, District Superintendent, Bay Area District

7/3/2025

DATE