



**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: Año Nuevo Exotic Weed Control Project

LOCATION: Año Nuevo State Park

COUNTY: San Mateo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project consists of weed control of three (3) non-native invasive species at Año Nuevo State Park for the purpose of improving overall habitat and preserving biological diversity. Prior to tree removal, bird surveys will be conducted during nesting bird season (February 15th-August 15th) and tree removal may occur year-round. To remove the following weeds, work will:

For *Hypericum canariense*, (St. John's Wort) Treatment:

- Map current extent of *Hypericum* using Field Maps;
- Use chainsaws and other hand tools to cut access paths through and into heavily invaded areas;
- During winter and early spring when soil moisture is high, use hand crews to pull large plants capable of flowering and during late spring, follow up to pull additional plants and spray seedlings and smaller plants with herbicide; and
- In early summer, check for flowering plants missed in prior visits and treat cut stumps with herbicide.

For *Eucalyptus globulus* Treatment:

- During first two (2) years, either hand pull or use herbicide cut stump application methods to remove all eucalyptus saplings 3-in. DBH or less;
- In the following three (3) years, remove all new saplings and remove all eucalyptus 16-in. DBH or less;
- Gird and apply herbicide to the cambium of trees greater than 16-in. DBH to strategically kill in place;
- Materials will be lopped and scattered or consolidated into piles to be burned the following winter.

For *Amophila arenaria* Treatment:

- In the project's third year, use herbicide tanks to make foliar applications to the plants;
- Use larger scale broadcast applications to complete initial treatment of monoculture patches; and
- Spot treatment resprouting plants, as needed, for long-term native plant recruitment.

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 & 4 *Section:* 15301 & 153044

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels, and of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes, and is included as "Resource management projects" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

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Chris Spohrer

7/17/25

Chris Spohrer

DATE

District Superintendent

Santa Cruz District