



**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
Sonoma-Coast District
12301 North Hwy 1
Mendocino, CA 95460

PROJECT TITLE: CLEAR – Fence Removal, Willow Creek Unit

LOCATION: Sonoma Coast State Park

COUNTY: Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project proposes removal of some existing fencing in the Willow Creek unit at Sonoma Coast State Park to reduce the hazards the fencing poses to State Park staff, the public, and wildlife fleeing predation especially nocturnal animals who are particularly vulnerable to becoming trapped in barbed wire. The Willow Creek unit was acquired from logging and ranching landowners who utilized cross fencing for livestock or to prevent trespassing. Cross fencing offers little benefit within a park unit, and much of it across the district is in disrepair.

State Parks Natural Resources staff will remove most metal T-post and barbed or mesh/panel wire fencing. Where fences are comprised of wooden posts with wire fencing, the wire will be removed and the posts may be left in place if deemed a cultural resource. Two or three segments of fence proposed for evaluation are wood posts with wood rails that appear to be from the State Parks era of ownership.

Natural Resources staff mapped and prioritized most fencing in the Willow Creek Unit. Approximately 9 miles of fencing are proposed for removal.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

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

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 minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

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Bill Maslach
District Superintendent

1/14/2026

DATE