



**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: Waddell Adaptive Management Plan

LOCATION: Big Basin Redwoods State Park

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project consists of creating a vegetated foredune at the mouth of Waddell Creek in the Rancho del Oso subunit of Big Basin Redwoods State Park to guide the creek mouth away from public infrastructure, reduce erosion, restore previous lagoon dynamics and alleviate the need for additional hard armoring. Work will occur as follows:

- Biologists will survey and clear the work area of any target animal species;
- Biological monitors will guide State Park equipment operators tracking onto the beach from the parking lot and begin lowering the sandbar to the south of the current river mouth;
- Generated sand will be stockpiled towards the parking lot;
- Operators will create a southerly aligned outlet channel with a similar rise and run to the existing northerly channel;
- While being shaped, the southern channel will be hydrologically disconnected from the system by a fill plug left in place at the upstream end;
- Upon completion of the channel, the upstream sand plug will be removed, allowing water to flow through the southern outlet channel;
- Stockpiled sand will then be moved north to construct a foredune between the embayment and the parking lot;
- Woody debris will be buried beneath the dune for added support and will remain lower than the parking lot and will mimic previous foredune; and
- Seed and plant dune with native plants and water into the dry season as necessary.

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 & 33 *Section:* 15301, 15304 & 15333

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; the 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 projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for plants and is included as "revegetation with native plants" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4

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Jordan Burgess

9/14/26

Jordan Burgess
Deputy District Superintendent
Santa Cruz District

DATE