

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth St. Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Clerk of the Board
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean St., Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FROM: City of Watsonville
Parks & Community Services Dept.
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

FILE NO. PCS-2020-0206

Project Title: Muzzio Park Playground Replacement

Project Location - Specific: 26 W. Front St., Watsonville, CA 95076

Project Location - City: Watsonville

Project Location-County: Santa Cruz

Description of Project: This project will replace a vandalized playground at Muzzio Park, a 1.12 acre neighborhood park in downtown Watsonville. The existing 1200 sq. ft. playground area will be expanded by 600 sq. ft. to accommodate new, upgraded playground equipment by removing 600 sq. ft. of existing turf grass in the park, installing new concrete curbing around the expanded playground area, and installing permeable playground natural fiber surfacing. The new, combined playground area will be 1800 sq ft.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Parks and Community Services Dept., City of Watsonville
Exempt Status: (Check One):

Ministerial (Sec.21080 (b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3);15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State Type and Section number: Class 1, 3, & 4; Sec. 15301, 15303, 15304

Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is Exempt: This project is eligible for a Class 1, 3, & 4 Categorical Exemption per Sec. 15301, 15303, and 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines as it involves the minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure and consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

The proposed project is not an expansion of capacity, rather it is an enhancement of an existing accessible park playground. This project will not result in additional environmental impacts relating to aesthetics, erosion, stormwater, groundwater, traffic or air quality. The project will have no or negligible adverse impacts on aesthetics in the surrounding area which is mixed use in an urban setting.

This NOE is consistent with the following code sections:

- 15301 Existing Facilities. Class 1 of this code section consists of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing or minor alternation of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

The proposed project is located in an existing public park with active recreation. It does not alter existing use patterns, but rather enhances safety and accessibility within existing facilities. The project does not propose any expansion of use and there are no new proposed buildings.

- 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. Class 3 of this code section consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure.

The proposed project does not involve major modifications to existing structures, but rather involves minor modifications to the exterior of one side of the existing concrete curb playground perimeter to accommodate new, upgraded playground equipment. The project will expand the concrete curb perimeter of an existing playground necessary to maintain safe fall-zones around the new equipment and would not result in a change of use.

- 15304 Minor Alterations of Land. Class 4 of this code consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

This project does not involve the removal of any healthy, mature or scenic trees. A 600 sq. ft. section of existing irrigated turf grass would be removed to accommodate the installation of natural playground wood fiber surfacing in conformance with ANSI ASTM standards for public playgrounds.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ben Heistein

Telephone: 831-768-3150

Title: Assistant Parks & Community Services Director

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:



Date: 2/6/2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 06 2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____