NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Santa Cruz District
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing the Spread of Wildfires on Ben Lomond Mountian

LOCATION: Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park   **COUNTY:** Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The proposed project will reduce wildfire fuel load levels along a 3.2 mile stretch of Empire Grade bordering Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park to improve chances of safe evacuations in locations which are listed as high priority in the Community Wildlife Protection Plan. Completion of this project will also connect stretches of road that have already received prior fuel reduction treatments.

Work crews will use hand tools to cut vegetation and small trees less than 8" in diameter at breast height (DBH) to create a shaded fuel break. The width of the treated area will range from 30' to approximately 100' from the edge of the road. A Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) scientist will evaluate DPR property to ensure no sensitive species are impacted or removed. There will be no ground disturbance from the project.

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: 4   *Section:* 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of minor alteration in the condition of land and vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry 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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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 13 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Chris Spohrer
District Superintendent
Santa Cruz District

DATE