

Jul 29 2020

Project ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

# PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF) STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

PCA No. \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT CONCEPT		
PROJECT TITLE Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction		PARK UNIT NAME Castle Rock State Park
DISTRICT NAME Santa Cruz		FACILITY NO.
PROJECT MANAGER David Cowman	PHONE NO. 415-246-8851	EMAIL david.cowman@parks.ca.gov
DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER David Cowman	PHONE NO. 415-246-8851	EMAIL david.cowman@parks.ca.gov
PROJECT BID DATE	CONSTRUCTION START DATE	FUNDING SOURCE State Park/ CalFire Forest Health IAA

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*Identify the scope of the project in detail, including its purpose, location, and potential impacts. If the ground is to be disturbed, describe the depth and extent of excavation. Describe the existing site conditions, including previous development. Note if work will impact or extend beyond park property. Indicate if work will be done in conjunction with, or as part of, other projects. (Use additional pages if necessary.)*

Castle Rock State Park (CRSP) is located 4 miles southwest of the city of San Jose and 11 miles north-northeast of the city of Santa Cruz; the park's boundaries fall mostly within Santa Cruz County, with a small portion also occurring within Santa Clara County (~80 acres). The proposed project area is located along a ridgetop section of the park, bordered to the north by Hwy 9, the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve, and a pre-existing service road, bordered to the East/South by Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT), and to the West/South by existing trails and an out-of-service road. The flora of the ridgetop section of the park is distinct from those areas down slope both to the west and to the east. The grasslands and black oak woodland (*Quercus kelloggii*) found on this ridge are recognized as rare in this region by local botanists.

The disturbance regime under which the flora of CRSP evolved has been dramatically altered in the last hundred years, primarily due to fire suppression. Fire is an integral ecological process of the Santa Cruz Mountains (SCM); however, increased demand for fire suppression has come as a result of increased habitation and the expansion of the Wildland Urban Interface into more natural areas. In the absence of fire, much of the Park's vegetation is rapidly converting to a Douglas-fir dominated forest type, resulting in a loss of diversity from many of the Park's vegetation communities, including the locally uncommon black oak woodland. The rapid expansion of Douglas-firs and their ability to shade out hardwood species such as the black oak is also leading to increased ladder fuel loading and an overall reduction in the fire resiliency of the vegetation communities (see attachment: Conifer encroachment graphic).

The purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel loading in Castle Rock's locally uncommon black oak woodland and other hardwood stands. Located along the upper ridgetops of the Park, this project will supplement recently completed fuel breaks implemented by State Parks and the local South Skyline Fire Safe Council (see attached map). In addition, this project will build upon similar State Park forest health projects in this distinct habitat type, which were completed in 2017/2018, and is consistent with similar fuel reduction/forest health projects being planned and implemented throughout the SCM by various agencies. The aims of this project are to 1) preserve the current extent of black oak woodland; 2) increase fire resiliency within the black oak and other hardwood communities; 3) reduce/modify ladder fuels by disrupting vertical and horizontal fuel continuity, ultimately reducing fire intensity and limiting spread. This will improve efficacy of suppression efforts and reduce risk of suppression-related resource damage elsewhere in the Park were this project not to occur.

In consultation with a Registered Professional Forester or qualified individual, District staff will utilize both mechanical equipment and hand crews to treat ~266 acres of predominately black oak woodland. Particularities of project work/prescription will be dependent upon and adjusted based on access and slope, and impacts to natural resources, and park visitor use.

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Portions of the project will consist of mechanical treatment to reduce vertical and horizontal continuity of ladder fuels, targeting shrubs and trees smaller than 10" in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). Mechanical work may consist of either a skid steer or excavator with a mulching or masticating head. Mechanical treatment will primarily occur on slopes less than 40% and in areas unlikely to experience high visitor use. Within areas identified for mechanical treatment, select stems smaller than 10" DBH or shrub species shall be flagged and retained for ecological purposes, including but not limited to providing habitat and shade for wildlife and plant species. Processed material will be chipped through mechanical mastication and broadcast throughout the treatment to depths less than 6". Within mechanically treated areas, in addition to removal of smaller diameter woody species, 10-30% of hardwood trees and 70-90% of Douglas-fir trees from 10"- 32" DBH shall be marked and felled using hand crews. Excess material, will be removed or broadcast through methods including, but not limited to, burn piles, track chippers, curtain burners, lopped and scattered by hand crews (not to exceed 12" depth), or other means. Boles of felled trees (>6" DBH) shall be bucked into sections where necessary to obtain ground contact along one side of the tree to encourage rapid decomposition.

On slopes greater than 40%, or in high use/ high visibility areas along roadsides, marked trees will be felled and processed using hand crews. Marked trees will consist of 10-30% of hardwood trees and 50-90% of Douglas-fir trees from 10"- DBH. Boles of trees shall be bucked into sections to obtain ground contact and slash (<6" DBH) will be lopped and scattered to a height no greater than 12".

Site access will primarily occur along existing service roads and out-of-use roads located at access points located on the attached map (A, B, C, and D). Equipment and material will be staged along pre-existing roads or other identified locations, with potential locations identified on the attached map (E and F).

Work will occur under the direction of a State Park Environmental Scientist. All burn/smoke permits and requirements will be in place prior to ignition of burn piles. Preferred timing for the project will be outside nesting bird season (February 15th – August 15th); however, when unavoidable, nesting bird surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel and avoidance areas will be identified prior to vegetation removal activities. A CNDDDB species animals list is attached, detailing potential impacts to rare, threatened, endangered, and listed animal species within the project area. In addition, a Minimum Management Decision Guide For Wilderness Areas and Cultural and Natural Reserves (DPR 315), will be completed to address project work within the San Lorenzo Headwaters Preserve. An excerpt from the Project Infrastructure Database project description (PID #205631), with listed avoidance measures and continued monitoring is attached.

### DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- ☒ 7.5 minute (quad) map of project area (**Required**)
- ☒ Site Map (**Required** - Scale should show relationship to existing buildings, roads, landscape features, etc.)
- ☒ DPR 727 Accessibility Review and Comment Sheet (**Required** – Attach DPR 727 or emailed project exemption from the Accessibility Section.)
- ☐ Sea-level Rise Worksheet (for coastal park units)
- ☒ Graphics (Specify - photos, diagrams, drawings, cross-sections, etc.): diagram: Conifer encroachment graphic
- ☒ Other (Specify): CNDDDB Assessment, PID #205631 excerpt

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**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)****REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS****IS AN APPLICATION, PERMIT, OR CONSULTATION REQUIRED?**

YES MAYBE NO CONTACT

Coastal Development Permit

☐☐☒☐

DFG Stream Alteration Permit

☐☐☒☐

State &amp; Federal Endangered Species Consultation

☐☐☒☐

Corps of Engineers 404 Permit

☐☐☒☐

RWQCB or NPDES Permit

☐☐☒☐

DPR Right to Enter or Temporary Use Permit

☐☐☒☐

PRC 5024 Review

☐☒☐☐

Stormwater Management Plan

☐☐☒☐Encroachment Permit (*Specify Agency*):☐☐☒☐

Native American Consultation

☐☒☐☐Other (*Specify*):☐☐☐☐

COMMENTS:

**DEPARTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE****HAS A GENERAL PLAN BEEN APPROVED FOR THE UNIT?**

YES

NO

If YES, is the project consistent with the GP?

☒☐

If NO, what is the project justification?

☒☐

Is it a temporary facility? (No permanent resource commitment)

☐☐

Health and Safety?

☐☐

Is it a Resource Management Project?

☐☐

Is it repairing, replacing, or rehabilitating an existing facility?

☐☐**IS THE PROJECT WITHIN A CLASSIFIED SUBUNIT?**

Natural Preserve

☒☐

Cultural Preserve

☐☒

State Wilderness

☐☒**IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES?**☒☐**IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS MANUAL CHAPTER 0300?**☒☐

COMMENTS:

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT PROJECT CONCEPT APPROVAL OR DESIGNEE

TITLE

Deputy District Sup

DATE

7/20/2020

52BDE6049323410...

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**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)**

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**RESOURCES**

*Explain all 'Yes' or 'Maybe' answers in the "Evaluation and Comments" section (reference by letter and number). Attach additional pages, if necessary.*

YES	MAYBE	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. EARTH – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Create unstable soil or geologic conditions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Adversely affect topographic features?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Adversely affect any unusual or significant geologic features?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Increase wind or water erosion?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Adversely affect sand deposition or erosion of a sand beach?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Expose people, property, or facilities to geologic hazards or hazardous waste?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Adversely affect any paleontological resource?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. AIR – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect general air quality or climatic patterns?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Introduce airborne pollutants that may affect plant or animal vigor or viability?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Increase levels of dust or smoke?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Adversely affect visibility?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. WATER – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Change or adversely affect movement in marine or fresh waters?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Change or adversely affect drainage patterns or sediment transportation rates?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of groundwater?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of surface waters?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Expose people or property to flood waters?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Adversely affect existing or potential aquatic habitat(s)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>D. PLANT LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect any native plant community?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Adversely affect any unique, rare, endangered, or protected plant species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Introduce a new species of plant to the area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Adversely affect agricultural production?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Adversely affect the vigor or structure of any tree?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Encourage the growth or spread of alien (non-native) species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Interfere with established fire management plans or practices?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>E. ANIMAL LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect any native or naturalized animal population?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Adversely affect any unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Adversely affect any animal habitat?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Introduce or encourage the proliferation of any non-native species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>F. CULTURAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site, or tribal cultural resource?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Cause an adverse physical or aesthetic effect on an eligible or contributing building, structure, object, or cultural landscape?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Diminish the informational or research potential of a cultural resource?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Increase the potential for vandalism or looting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Disturb any human remains?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Restrict access to a sacred site or inhibit the traditional religious practice of a Native American community?



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YES	MAYBE	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>G. AESTHETIC RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect a scenic vista or view?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Significantly increase noise levels?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Adversely affect the quality of the scenic resources in the immediate area or park-wide?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Create a visually offensive site?
			5. Be incompatible with the park design established for this unit or diminish the intended sense of “a special park quality” for the visitor?
<b>YES</b>	<b>MAYBE</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>H. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Be in a public use area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Have an adverse effect on the quality of the intended visitor experience?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Have an adverse effect on the quality or quantity of existing or future recreational opportunities or facilities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Have an adverse effect on the accessibility of recreational facilities (e.g., ADA requirements)?
<b>YES</b>	<b>MAYBE</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>I. SEA-LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME EVENTS (COASTAL UNITS ONLY):</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Has this project been evaluated for potential impacts from sea-level rise, coastal storm surge, and other extreme events, using the Department’s Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Events Guidance Document or an equivalent process? <i>Please attach the Sea-Level Rise Worksheet (provided in the guidance document) or other detailed evaluation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Based on the evaluation described above, will the project be adversely impacted by frequent flooding or permanent inundation during its expected lifetime?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-coastal unit			

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**EVALUATION AND COMMENTS**

A 4. Mechanical fuel reduction through the use of heavy equipment has the potential to temporarily increase water driven soil erosion through the creation of berms and removal of the decomposing vegetative layer above the soil surface. However, heavy equipment will only be utilized on slopes <40%, in order to minimize impacts of erosion. In addition, through the process of mechanical mastication and chipping, a relatively even layer of mulch will be deposited throughout the project area. Lastly, mechanical mastication will primarily occur during the drier months between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. More detailed mitigation measures are attached in the excerpt from PID #205631.

B 1, 2, and 3. Smoke may cause temporary short-term air quality impacts in isolated treatment areas when burn piles are burned. All burning operations will be done with burn permits and in compliance with air quality restrictions. Burning operations will preferentially occur outside of the high use period from the end of May until the start of September and impacts will be temporary.

D 5. The primary objective of the project is to reduce competition in black oak woodlands and remove hazardous fuels by removing live Douglas-fir trees and other juvenile trees and shrubs of various species. This will maintain or improve the health and vigor of native hardwood species, while creating a more fire resilient ecosystem. Shifting the forested community towards a more fire tolerant composition will minimize the risks associated with high intensity wildfire in the future.

D 6. Several non-native, invasive species occur within the region; this project may create disturbances that favor the spread of these species. All equipment will be inspected for non-native plant material prior to entry into the park. In addition, the project area will be monitored for non-native species after the project is completed and any potentially damaging non native species detected will be removed.

E 1 and 3. Through the removal of trees and vegetation, the project has the potential to affect nesting bird habitat. However, preferred timing for the project will be outside of nesting bird season (Feb. 15 - Aug. 15). When necessary, nesting bird surveys will be performed prior to vegetation removal activities and identified locations will be marked and avoided by a State Parks environmental scientist or qualified designee. See attached CNDDDB species list for further avoidance measures of potential animal species.

F 1, 2, and 3. The district archaeologist will review and make determination if any prehistoric or historic archaeological site or tribal cultural resource exists within the project area. Any sensitive resources will be identified and avoided within the project area.

E 2. No unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species have been identified within project boundaries; however, see attached CNDDDB species list for avoidance measures of potential animal species.

G 2 and 3. The use of chainsaws and heavy machinery may temporarily increase noise levels throughout the duration of the project, however impacts will be short term. In addition, preferred timing for these activities will be outside nesting bird season (February 15<sup>th</sup>-September 15<sup>th</sup>) and, when unavoidable, nesting bird surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel prior to vegetation removal activities.

G 4. Park visitors may be unaccustomed to seeing heavy machinery in a State Park setting; however, locations outside of high use and high visibility areas will be preferentially chosen for mechanical treatment.

H 1. Portions of the project are located adjacent to trails and locations utilized for recreation.



H 2. While project work is occurring adjacent to heavily trafficked areas, park visitors will notice an increase in noise and hand crews. In addition, during hazardous tree falling activities, park users may be stopped until the hazard is mitigated. Potential impacts will be temporary and isolated during near-trail work times.

H 3. Temporary, increased noise and personnel may impact quality of recreational opportunities in the short-term.

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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW</b> <i>To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY.</i> <i>Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.</i>		
<b>TRIBAL LIAISON COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewer is Designated District/Service Center/Division <b>Tribal Liaison or Designee</b> <input type="checkbox"/> NAHC Listed Tribe(s) contacted (attach correspondence record for contact and findings) <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> DN 2007-05 Tribal Consultation Only  <input type="checkbox"/> AB52 Consultation Initiated </div> <p><b>Findings:</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Project action does not have potential to affect "tribal cultural" resources (explain) <b><i>Check more than one box if tribes provide differing responses, and describe all consultations below.</i></b> <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) did not respond <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) approved project as written <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) approved project with treatments or conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) and DPR unable to reach mutual agreement on project treatments or conditions <p><b>Explain</b></p>		
SIGNATURE 	PRINTED NAME	
TITLE	DATE	
<b>ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)</b> <p><b>Findings:</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> No PRC 5024 necessary ( <u>provide justification</u> ) <input type="checkbox"/> PRC 5024 attached; project approved as written <input type="checkbox"/> PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary <input type="checkbox"/> PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts <p><b>Explain</b></p>		
SIGNATURE 	PRINTED NAME	
TITLE	DATE	

Project ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)**

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**HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****Findings:**

- ☐ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

**Explain**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****Findings:**

- ☐ No Impact
- ☒ Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
- ☐ Potential Significant Impact

**Explain**

Measures are included within the project description to avoid or minimize long-term negative impacts on natural resources.

SIGNATURE DocuSigned by:



PRINTED NAME

Joanne Kerbavaz

TITLE

112B43C585154E4...

Senior Environmental Scientist

DATE

7/20/2020

**MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****COMMENTS:**

SIGNATURE DocuSigned by:



PRINTED NAME

Rachel Arias

TITLE

4A3B27A1425A4BE...

PMC

DATE

7/23/2020

Project ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)**

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**OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)**

SIGNATURE DocuSigned by:

*Elizabeth Hammack*

PRINTED NAME Elizabeth Hammack

TITLE

2A8B36567AEF4E9...

State Park Interpreter III

DATE

7/20/2020

**OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

**OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

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**ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REVIEW**

YES MAYBE NO

☐ ☐ ☒☐ ☐ ☒☐ ☐ ☒☐ ☐ ☒☐ ☐ ☒**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects at the park?
2. Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects?
3. Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to become operational?
4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project?
5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?

COMMENTS:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- ☐ Not a project for the purposes of CEQA compliance.
- ☐ Project is covered activity under DOM 0600 (Figure F) that does not require a Notice of Exemption;
- ☐ Project is covered activity under previously prepared CEQA Document (internal or external);  
SCH number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ The project is exempt. File a Notice of Exemption.
- ☐ A Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- ☐ A Mitigated Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- ☐ An EIR should be prepared.
- ☐ AB52 Consultation Initiated. See Tribal Liaison Comment Section above.

SIGNATURE DocuSigned by:



PRINTED NAME Sheila Branon

TITLE 3B46F18CC41B41A...

Sr. Park and Recreation Specialist

DATE 7/28/2020

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW**

COMMENTS:

***I acknowledge any constraints placed on the project as a result of the specialists' comments above and recommend the project proceed.***

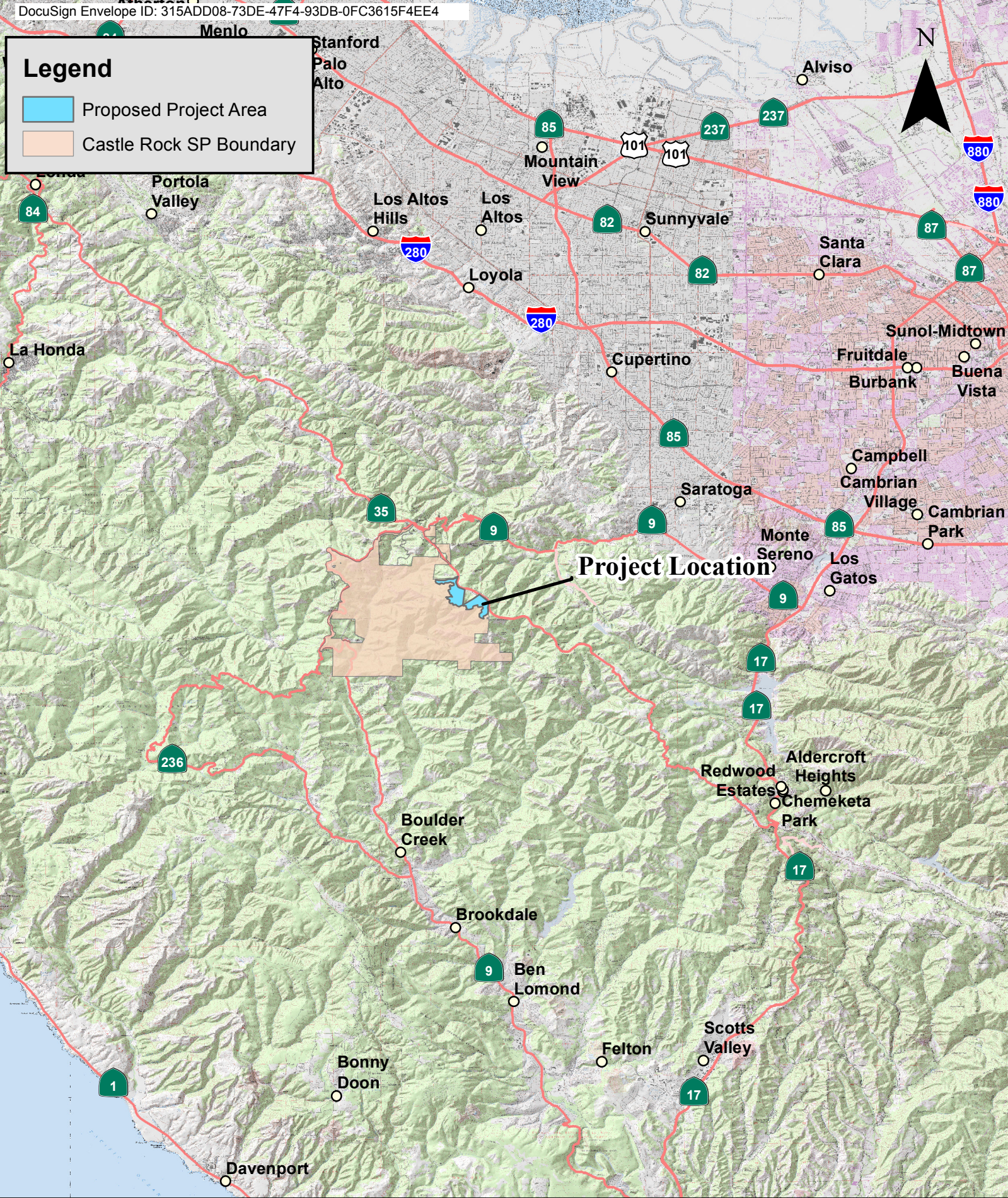
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL SIGNATURE

TITLE  
DSIIDATE  
7/29/2020

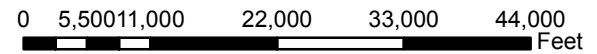


# Legend








- Proposed Project Area
- Castle Rock SP Boundary

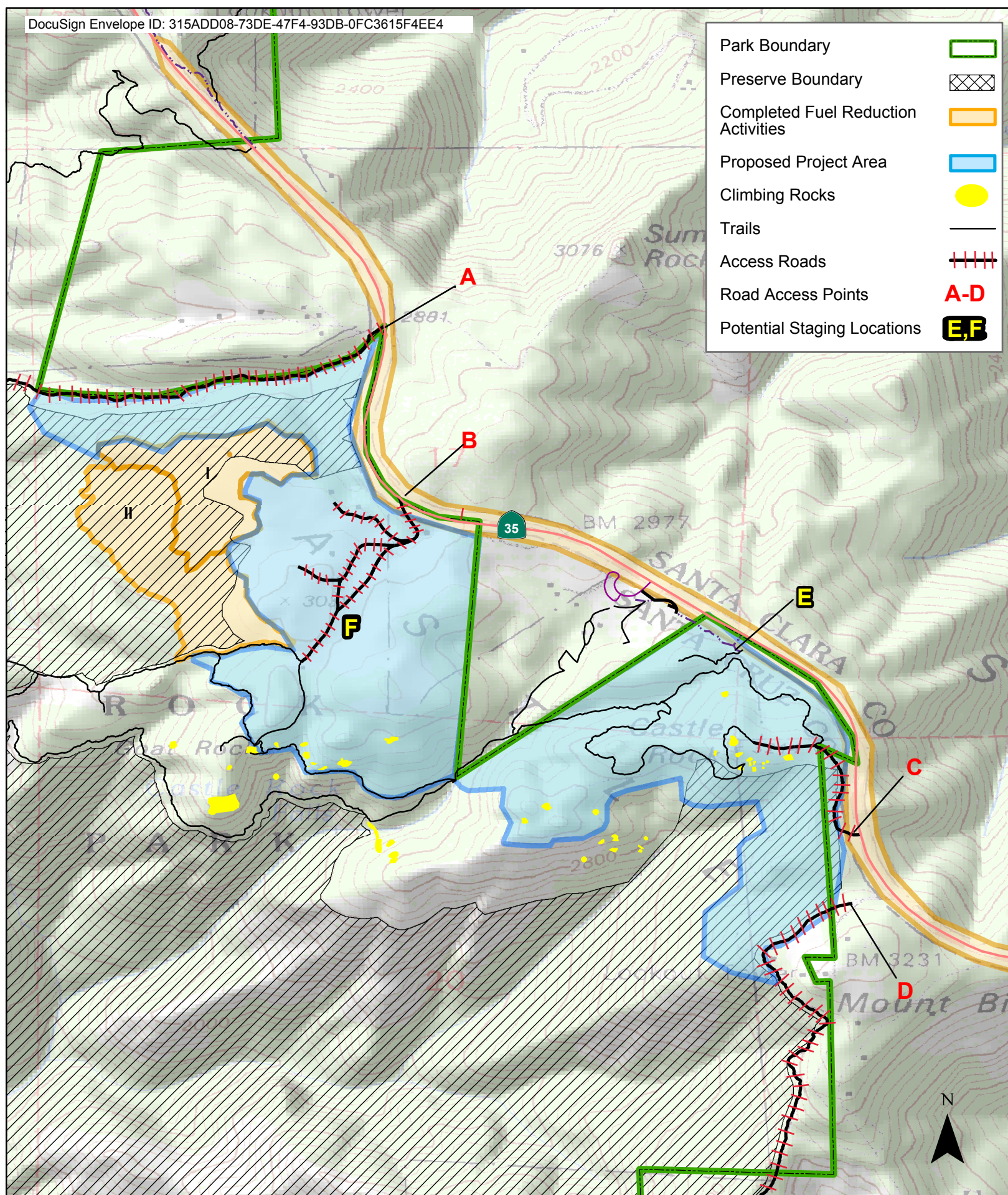


**Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction  
Castle Rock State Park  
Project Location**





- Park Boundary 
- Preserve Boundary 
- Completed Fuel Reduction Activities 
- Proposed Project Area 
- Climbing Rocks 
- Trails 
- Access Roads 
- Road Access Points **A-D**
- Potential Staging Locations **E,F**



**Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction  
Castle Rock State Park  
Site Map**

0 380 760 1,520 2,280 3,040 Feet



## **Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Hazard Reduction Phase III**

### **PID #205631 (excerpt from project description)**

#### Monitoring

Prior to removal of trees, several vegetation surveys will be completed in the spring using California Native Plant Society's (CNPSs) Vegetation Rapid Assessment method and comprehensive forest stand inventories. Stand inventory will follow academically accepted methods and will be used to assess stand density, age-class structure, basal area reduction/dominance, as well as fuel loading within 30-40 fixed, circular sampling plots. Both the Rapid Assessment and the Forest Inventory plots will be sampled each spring during treatments and the year following completion of the project. Photo monitoring will be incorporated into this monitoring to document before and after treatment views of the forest stand.

#### Prescribed Fire Plan

District staff will work to complete a Prescribed Fire Plan for the Unit. This plan will address future prescribed burning activities, including pile burning and broadcast burning. The pile burning to be done as part of this project will require this burn plan. Using information from the recently updated Castle Rock SP Wildfire Management Plan, the Prescribed Fire Plan will divide the Park into multiple large burn units, each being further divided into smaller sub-units. A broadcast burn has never been initiated within the Park so the completion of this plan and the reduced fuel loads in the area will provide a great opportunity to start a burn program within the Park.

#### Erosion Control

Erosion from this project is anticipated to be minimal, as no grading or other earth moving activities are proposed. There will be no grubbing or removal of any plant's root system within the project area (except removal of the non-native invasive weeds identified above). Removal of vegetation as part of this project will only occur at or above the soil line using handsaws, loppers, weed whips, chainsaws and/or masticating equipment. The potential for soil erosion during and after vegetation management activities will be further reduced through the following measures:

- Following tree felling activities within the project area, a layer of duff or mulch from the surrounding area will be placed on any areas of bare ground. For thinning on steeper slopes (>10%) in the project area, hand crews will utilize the boles or larger sections of the trees where feasible, placed perpendicular to the slope to help stabilize surrounding areas.
- Use of equipment will be limited to working on slopes less than 40%.
- Masticating equipment will create a relatively evenly distributed layer of mulch within the masticated areas.
- Mastication activities will generally take place during the dry season (May 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>); however, equipment may be used during the wetter months so long as it does not occur within a 24-hour period following every 1 inch of rain received.

#### Limitations on work hours and weather conditions.

All work will be conducted during daylight hours. No mowing will take place during red flag warnings or periods of active precipitation and within 24 hours after precipitation ceases. In addition, the use of off

road equipment and/or vehicles will not take place during red flag warnings or periods of increased soil saturation, as determined by Project Manager or on-site designee.

Monitoring during nesting bird season.

If project activities are scheduled during the nesting season of raptors and migratory birds, a focused survey for active nests of such birds shall be conducted within 15 days prior to the beginning of project-related activities. Surveys shall be conducted in all suitable habitat located at project work sites and in staging and storage areas. Nesting seasons are typically defined as follows: i) March 15 to August 30 for smaller bird species such as passerines; ii) February 15 to September 15 for raptors.

An active nest is defined as a nest having eggs or chicks present, or a nest that adult birds have staked a territory and are displaying, constructing a nest, or are repairing an old nest. Active nest sites shall be designated as "Ecologically Sensitive Areas" (ESA), and flagged and avoided during project activity. The typical minimum distances of the protective buffers surrounding each identified ESA are the following: i) 1,000 feet for large raptors such as *Buteos*; ii) 500 feet for small raptors such as *Accipiters*; iii) 250 feet for passerines. A biological monitor or qualified biologist shall monitor the behavior of the birds (adults and young, when present) at the nest site to ensure that they are not disturbed by project-related activities. Nest monitoring shall continue during project-related vegetation work until the young have fully fledged, are no longer being fed by the parents and have left the nest site, as determined by a biological monitor.

No trees, shrubs or emergent vegetation shall be disturbed, trimmed or pruned that contain active bird nests until all eggs have hatched, and young have fully fledged (are no longer being fed by the adults, and have completely left the nest site). Until the young have fully fledged and will no longer be adversely affected by the project, no habitat modification shall occur within the ESA flagged nest zone, even if the nest continues to be active beyond the typical nesting season for the species.

Decontamination of equipment - Biosecurity.

In order to prevent the movement of invasive plant and animal species, fungi, and other biotic agents both into the Park and to external ecological regions from the Park, equipment used for vegetation management activities will be washed prior to and immediately following entry and use within the project area.

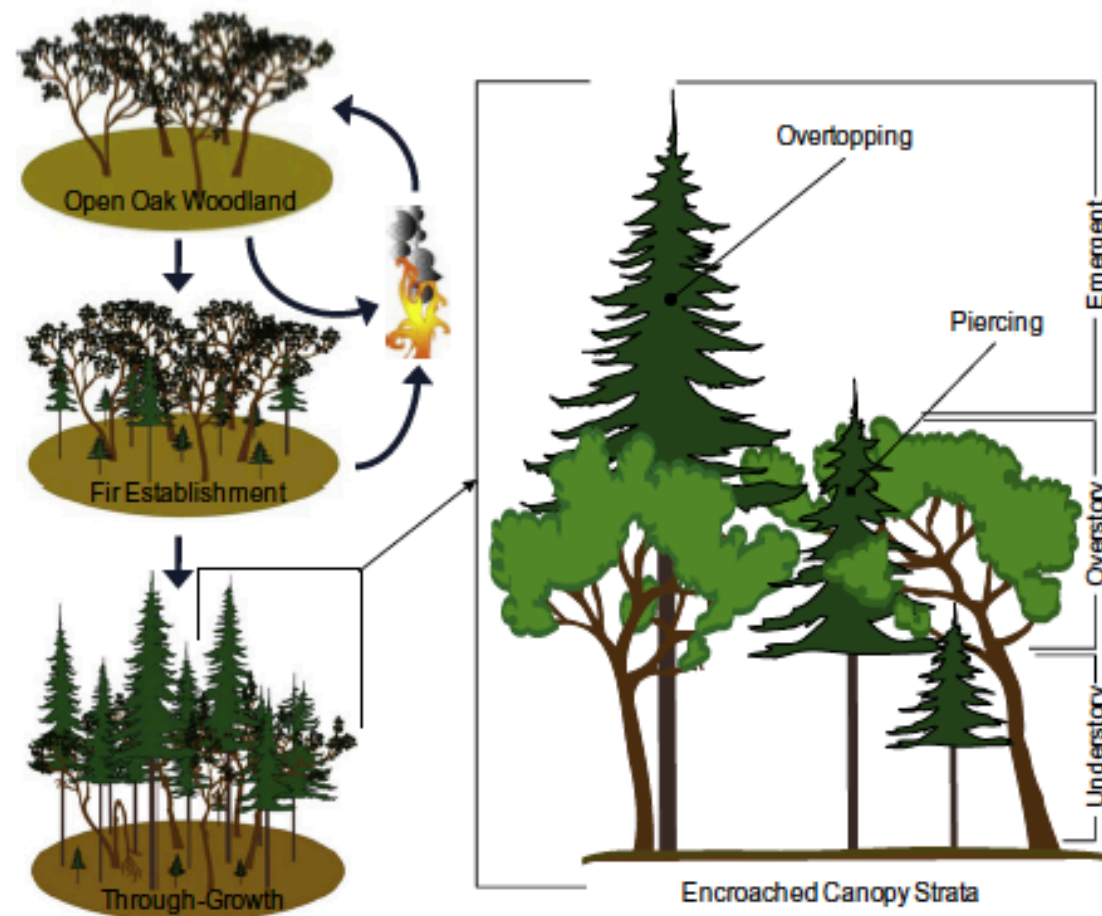
CNDDDB\_RareFind

Quad: San Jose West (3712138), Los Gatos (3712128), Laurel (3712118), Felton (3712211), Davenport (3712232), Mindego Hill (3712232), Big Basin (3712222),  
Elevation: <1000'

SciName	Federal Status	State Status	Other Status	Habitats	General Habitat	Micro habitat	Location Notes	Project Impacts, Benefits, and Avoidance
Birds								
American peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	Delisted	Delisted	CDF_S-Sensitive   CDFW_FP-Fully Protected   USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern		Near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures.	Nest consists of a scrape or a depression or ledge in an open site.	Has not been identified on site. However, 1 reported occurrence in Castle Rock Ridge quad, southeast of project location, between Bear creek and Two Bar creek. 1 additional occurrence in Mindego Hill quad. Nearby rocky outcroppings may serve as suitable habitat. However, project activities are unlikely to impact nesting habitat.	<b>Avoidance:</b> Preferred timing will be outside of nesting bird season (Feb. 15 - Aug. 15) ; however, when unavoidable nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to vegetation removal activities.
Marbled murrelet ( <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> )	Threatened	Endangered	CDF_S-Sensitive   IUCN_EN-Endangered   NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Lower montane coniferous forest   Oldgrowth   Redwood	Feeds near-shore; nests inland along coast from Eureka to Oregon border and from Half Moon Bay to Santa Cruz.	Nests in old-growth redwood-dominated forests, up to six miles inland, often in Douglas-fir.	Has not been identified on site. 1 reported occurrence in Felton quad and 4 in Big Basin quad. No suitable nesting habitat.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Amphibians								
Foothill yellow-legged frog ( <i>Rana boylei</i> )	None	Candidate Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive   CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern   IUCN_NT-Near Threatened   USFS_S-Sensitive	Aquatic   Chaparral   Cismontane woodland   Coastal scrub   Klamath/North coast flowing waters   Lower montane coniferous forest   Meadow & seep   Riparian forest   Riparian woodland   Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats.	Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Needs at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Has not been identified on site. 2 occurrences in Felton quad, 3 in Laurel quad, 1 in Davenport quad, and 1 in Big Basin quad. No suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern   IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Aquatic   Artificial flowing waters   Artificial standing waters   Freshwater marsh   Marsh & swamp   Riparian forest   Riparian scrub   Riparian woodland   Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters   Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters   South coast flowing waters   South coast standing waters   Wetland	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Big Basin quad, 1 in Davenport quad, and 2 in Laurel quad. No suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None

Dicots								
Ben Lomond spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>hartwegiana</i> )	Endangered	None		Lower montane coniferous forest	Lower montane coniferous forest.	Zayante coarse sands in maritime ponderosa pine sandhills. 105-475 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Big Basin quad, 1 in Felton quad, 1 in Davenport quad, 1 in Laurel quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Santa Clara Valley dudleya ( <i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>Setchellii</i> )	Endangered	None	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Cismontane woodland   Ultramafic   Valley & foothill grassland	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland.	On rocky serpentine outcrops and on rocks within grassland or woodland. 60-455 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Santa Clara quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
San Mateo woolly sunflower ( <i>Eriophyllum latilobum</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Cismontane woodland   Coastal scrub   Lower montane coniferous forest   Ultramafic	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest.	Often on roadcuts; found on and off of serpentine. 30-610 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Mindego Hill quad. Suspected erroneous report.	<b>Avoidance:</b> Botanical surveys will be performed between April and May and identified species will be avoided. <b>Benefits:</b> Conversion of mixed conifer/hardwood forest stands to hardwood forest stands may create/improve habitat.
Santa Cruz wallflower ( <i>Erysimum teretifolium</i> )	Endangered	Endangered		Chaparral   Lower montane coniferous forest	Lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral.	Inland marine sands (Zayante coarse sand). 180-515 m.	Has not been identified on site. 2 occurrences in Davenport quad, 2 in Felton quad, and 1 occurrence in Laurel quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Rock sanicle ( <i>Sanicula saxatilis</i> )	None	Rare	BLM_S-Sensitive	Broadleaved upland forest   Chaparral   Valley & foothill grassland	Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland.	Bedrock outcrops and talus slopes in chaparral or oak woodland habitat. 670-1250 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Los Gatos quad.	<b>Avoidance:</b> Botanical surveys will be performed between April and May and identified species will be avoided.
White-rayed pentachaeta ( <i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	SB_UCBG-UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley	Ultramafic   Valley & foothill grassland	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland.	Open dry rocky slopes and grassy areas, often on soils derived from serpentine bedrock. 35-610 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Big Basin quad, however, potential misidentification. No serpentine bedrock on site or ultramafic soils.	<b>Avoidance:</b> Botanical surveys will be performed between April and May and identified species will be avoided.
San Francisco popcornflower ( <i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i> )	None	Endangered	SB_UCSC-UC Santa Cruz	Coastal prairie   Valley & foothill grassland	Valley and foothill grassland, coastal prairie.	Historically from grassy slopes with marine influence. 45-360 m.	Has not been identified on site. 3 occurrences in Felton quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None

Pacific Grove clover ( <i>Trifolium polyodon</i> )	None	Rare	BLM_S-Sensitive   SB_USDA-US Dept of Agriculture	Closed-cone coniferous forest   Coastal prairie   Meadow & seep   Valley & foothill grassland   Wetland	Closed-cone coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland.	Along small springs and seeps in grassy openings. 5-260 m.	Has not been reported on site. 1 occurrence in Felton quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Fish								
Steelhead - Central California coast DPS ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> ) pop. 8	Threatened	None	AFS_TH-Threatened	Aquatic   Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters	DPS includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) in streams from the Russian River to Aptos Creek, Santa Cruz County, California (inclusive). Also includes the drainages of San Francisco and San		Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Mindego Hill quad. Project area is at an elevation high enough with enough barriers to prevent anadromous fish passage.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Gymnosperms								
Santa Cruz cypress ( <i>Hesperocyparis abramsiana</i> var. <i>abramsiana</i> )	Threatened	Endangered	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden   SB_UCSC-UC Santa Cruz	Chaparral   Closed-cone coniferous forest   Lower montane coniferous forest	Chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest.	Restricted to the Santa Cruz Mountains, on sandstone & granitic- derived soils; often w/Pinus attenuata, redwoods. 300-1085 m.	Has not been identified on site. 2 occurrences in Big Basin quad, 4 in Davenport quad, and 1 in Felton quad.	<b>Avoidance:</b> Botanical surveys will be performed between April and May and identified species will be avoided.
Butano Ridge cypress ( <i>Hesperocyparis abramsiana</i> var. <i>butanoensis</i> )	Threatened	Endangered	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral   Closed-cone coniferous forest   Lower montane coniferous forest	Closed-cone coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral.	Sandstone. 400-490 m.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Big Basin quad. Project area occurs exclusively above 610 m; no suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Insects								
Ohlone tiger beetle ( <i>Cicindela ohlone</i> )	Endangered	None		Coastal prairie	Remnant native grasslands with California oatgrass & purple needlegrass in Santa Cruz County.	Substrate is poorly- drained clay or sandy clay soil over bedrock of Santa Cruz mudstone.	Has not been identified on site. 1 occurrence in Felton and Santa Cruz quad. No suitable habitat within project area.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None
Reptiles								
San Francisco gartersnake ( <i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	CDFW_FP-Fully Protected	Artificial standing waters   Marsh & swamp   Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters   Wetland	Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow- moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme northern Santa Cruz County.	Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.	Has not been identified on site. 6 occurrences in Mindego Hill quad. No suitable habitat occurs on site.	<b>Avoidance:</b> None



**Fig. 1.** Conceptual pathway illustrating the pattern of Douglas-fir encroachment in oak woodlands. Frequent fire limits establishment by killing young conifers and maintaining open oak woodland. Without fire, conifers establish and subsequent through-growth results in increased competition with distinct canopy stratification. Canopy strata depictions adapted from Oliver and Larson (1996) and Hunter and Barbour (2001).

State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## ACCESSIBILITY DIVISION

**R E V I E W & C O M M E N T S H E E T**

<b>Project:</b>	Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction	<b>Design Entity:</b>	Santa Cruz District
<b>Location:</b>	Castle Rock State Park	<b>Project Manager:</b>	David Cowman
<b>Review Date:</b>	4/9/20	<b>Reviewer:</b>	Peter Oliver, CAsp-818
<b>Project Phase:</b>	PEF	<b>Phone:</b>	916-445-8769

This review and comment does not authorize any omissions or deviations from applicable regulations. The intent of this review is for general conformance with applicable parts of Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADASAD), California Code of Regulations Title 24 - access compliance, and the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines (CSPAG). Plans were reviewed solely on the items submitted to the Accessibility Section as it relates to standards in design and construction of accessibility features for individuals with disabilities. All construction must comply with the Latest Editions of the California Building Code (CBC), California Mechanical Code (CMC), California Plumbing Code (CPC), California Electrical code (CEC), California Fire Code (CFC), current editions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and all other prevailing state and federal regulations.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Accessibility Section has completed review of this PEF, determined that there are no accessibility requirements, and the project is exempt for accessibility compliance. Unless the scope of work changes, no further review is required.

**END OF COMMENTS**

Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction – Castle Rock State Park  
Staff and Public Information Communication Comments  
4/21/20

Messaging the project scope, purpose, timing and locations.

- Messaging of the project scope, purpose, timing and locations will take on several forms throughout the duration of the project. Primary modes of communication will include social media, through the use of Facebook posts, as well as interpretive signs with contact and project information. In addition, written into the Project Infrastructure Document (PID) includes significant funding towards a State Park Interpreter 1 to assist with conveying project information to the general public.

Potential Impacts to visitor use groups and neighbors.

- Impacts to visitor use groups and neighbors are discussed in the Project Evaluation Form (PEF) sections H 1, 2, and 3. To summarize, potential impacts to visitors include temporary noise level increases throughout the duration of the project, short-term impacts from smoke caused by pile burning activities, and potential trail closures, delays, or detours. In addition, project work adjacent to highly trafficked areas may increase noise levels and create hazards for park visitors. During these times, signs will be posted along trails and resource staff will work with facilities staff to close certain park locations and provide detour signs when hiking is unsafe.

Methods of messaging through social media and sign posting.

- As mentioned previously, a state park interpreter will likely be on site available to answer questions posed from the general public regarding project information. Exact details of interpreter availabilities and duties have not yet been determined. In addition, signs will be posted along trails either detouring park visitors or providing information in any location where project work can be viewed. Informative signs will include contact information as well as information on project scope, timing, and implementation. Lastly, during pile burning activities all standard methods of communication will be adhered to. These may include Facebook posts, signs posted along Highway 35 and other strategic locations, notification of nearby fire departments and other State Park functions, as well as press releases.

Direct communication to staff

- As is standard operating procedure for any large-scale project, all other State Park functions will be updated and informed on pertinent aspects of the project. This includes communication with program managers from facilities, visitor services, and interpretation.

Talking points for staff responding to questions for the public

- As is standard operating procedure for any Natural Resource project, talking points will be provided for staff before and implementation of the project. Talking points typically



include project scope, purpose, end state, as well as contact information for more specific project details or complaints.

Designating a primary point of contact for media and public information requests

- During the project review process, I, David Cowman, will be the primary point of contact with input provided from district Environmental Scientists Joanne Kerbavaz, Tim Hyland, and Tim Reilly. Prior to and during project implementation an official point of contact will be designated, with contact information provided in press releases, Facebook posts, and interpretive signs.

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**California Department of Parks and Recreation**  
**Historical Review ☒ Archaeological Review ☐ Both ☐**  
**Project Evaluation**  
**(P.R.C. 5024, 5024.5 and E.O. W-26-92)**

**PROJECT:** Black Oak Woodland Forest Fuel Reduction

**PARK UNIT:** Castle Rock State Park

**DISTRICT:** Santa Cruz

**Project Manager:** David Cowman

**Date:** 4/16/20

**Contact Phone #:** 415-246-8851

**Email:** david.cowman@parks.ca.gov

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION / DEFINE A.P.E. BOUNDARY:**

See attached PEF

Castle Rock State Park (CRSP) is located 4 miles southwest of the city of San Jose and 11 miles north-northeast of the city of Santa Cruz; the park's boundaries fall mostly within Santa Cruz County, with a small portion also occurring within Santa Clara County (~80 acres). The proposed project area is located along a ridgetop section of the park, bordered to the north by Hwy 9, the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve, and a pre-existing service road, bordered to the East/South by Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT), and to the West/South by existing trails and an out-of-service road. The flora of the ridgetop section of the park is distinct from those areas down slope both to the west and to the east. The grasslands and black oak woodland (*Quercus kelloggii*) found on this ridge are recognized as rare in this region by local botanists.

The disturbance regime under which the flora of CRSP evolved has been dramatically altered in the last hundred years, primarily due to fire suppression. Fire is an integral ecological process of the Santa Cruz Mountains (SCM); however, increased demand for fire suppression has come as a result of increased habitation and the expansion of the Wildland Urban Interface into more natural areas. In the absence of fire, much of the Park's vegetation is rapidly converting to a Douglas-fir dominated forest type, resulting in a loss of diversity from many of the Park's vegetation communities, including the locally uncommon black oak woodland. The rapid expansion of Douglas-firs and their ability to shade out hardwood species such as the black oak is also leading to increased ladder fuel loading and an overall reduction in the fire resiliency of the vegetation communities (see attachment: Conifer encroachment graphic). The purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel loading in Castle Rock's locally uncommon black oak woodland and other hardwood stands. Located along the upper ridgetops of the Park, this project will supplement recently completed fuel breaks implemented by State Parks and the local South Skyline Fire Safe Council (see attached map). In addition, this project will build upon similar State Park forest health projects in this distinct habitat type, which were completed in 2017/2018, and is consistent with similar fuel reduction/forest health projects being planned and implemented throughout the SCM by various agencies. The aims of this project are to 1) preserve the current extent of black oak woodland; 2) increase fire resiliency within the black oak and other hardwood communities; 3) reduce/modify ladder fuels by disrupting vertical and horizontal fuel continuity, ultimately reducing fire intensity and limiting spread. This will improve efficacy of suppression efforts and reduce risk of suppression-related resource damage elsewhere in the Park were this project not to occur.

In consultation with a Registered Professional Forester or qualified individual, District staff will utilize both mechanical equipment and hand crews to treat ~266 acres of predominately black oak woodland. Particularities of project work/prescription will be dependent upon and adjusted based on access and slope, and impacts to natural resources, and park visitor use.

Portions of the project will consist of mechanical treatment to reduce vertical and horizontal continuity of ladder fuels, targeting shrubs and trees smaller than 10" in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). Mechanical work may consist of either a skid steer or excavator with a mulching or masticating head. Mechanical treatment will primarily occur on slopes less than 40% and in areas unlikely to experience high visitor use. Within areas identified for mechanical treatment, select stems smaller than 10" DBH or shrub species shall be flagged and retained for ecological purposes, including but not limited to providing habitat and shade for wildlife and plant species. Processed material will be chipped through mechanical mastication and broadcast throughout the treatment to depths less than 6". Within mechanically treated areas, in addition to removal of smaller diameter woody species, 10-30% of hardwood trees and 70-90% of Douglas-fir trees from 10"- 32" DBH shall be marked and felled using hand crews. Excess material, will be removed or broadcast through methods including, but not limited to, burn piles, track chippers, curtain burners, lopped and scattered by hand crews (not to exceed 12" depth), or other means. Boles of felled trees (>6" DBH) shall be bucked into sections where necessary to obtain ground contact along one side of the tree to encourage rapid decomposition.

On slopes greater than 40%, or in high use/ high visibility areas along roadsides, marked trees will be felled and processed using hand crews. Marked trees will consist of 10-30% of hardwood trees and 50-90% of Douglas-fir trees from 10"-32" DBH. Boles of trees shall be bucked into sections to obtain ground contact and slash (<6" DBH) will be lopped and scattered to a height no greater than 12".

Site access will primarily occur along existing service roads and out-of-use roads located at access points located on the attached map (A, B, C, and D). Equipment and material will be staged along pre-existing roads or other identified locations, with potential locations identified on the attached map (E and F).

Work will occur under the direction of a State Park Environmental Scientist. All burn/smoke permits and requirements will be in place prior to ignition of burn piles. Preferred timing for the project will be outside nesting bird season (February 15th – August 15th); however, when unavoidable, nesting bird surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel and avoidance areas will be identified prior

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to vegetation removal activities. A CNDDDB species animals list is attached, detailing potential impacts to rare, threatened, endangered, and listed animal species within the project area. In addition, a Minimum Management Decision Guide For Wilderness Areas and Cultural and Natural Reserves (DPR 315), will be completed to address project work within the San Lorenzo Headwaters Preserve. An excerpt from the Project Infrastructure Database project description (PID #205631), with listed avoidance measures and continued monitoring is attached.

**Source of Funding/Amount:****CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

HISTORIC ☐ ARCHAEOLOGICAL ☐ TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY (TCP) ☐ NONE ☒  
 POTENTIALLY PRESENT (i.e. potentially buried resources or survey inconclusive due to inaccessibility) ☐

APE visited by Cultural Resources Staff Yes ☐ No ☒

Name:

Date:

**Methods of Inventory:**

Records Review ☐ Site History Research ☒ Field Survey ☐ Subsurface Testing ☐ Other

**Explain Findings:** The prescribed burn areas of this project are within the boundaries of Castle Rock State Park. According to a Cultural resource inventory done for the park in 2000, the identified existing historic resources are limited to a small historic orchard, bungalow, small garage, well and reservoir related to the Partridge Farm complex. This complex is not within the boundaries of the prescribed vegetation clearing areas.

**NEGATIVE SURVEY DETERMINATION:**

☒ **NO EFFECT: No Historical Resources Present**

[If no cultural resources are present, or potentially present within the project APE, no further documentation is required. Proceed to review section VII. APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION for signature]

**I. EXISTING CONDITIONS/RESOURCE STATUS Attach appropriate documentation (DPR 523 forms, etc.):**

A. Resources within APE: [Site Number(s)/Description(s)/Date of Latest Recordation Form(s)/Additional Documentation (reports, studies, etc)]:

B. Newly identified resources recorded or updated previous records?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain/List:

**II. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION(S) (use continuation page [separate file] for additional resources identified):**

A. Resource Evaluation and Significance (If resource is nominated or listed, do NOT fill out section IIB below. Attach appropriate recordation forms to review package. If not, move to section IIB below).

**Resource Name / Site Number:**

Resource Type is: Individual Building/Structure ☐ Archaeological Site(s) ☐ Landscape District ☐  
 Historic District ☐ Archaeological District ☐ TCP ☐ National Historic Landmark ☐ Cultural Preserve ☐

Nominated for ☐ or Listed ☐ on: California Register: Yes ☐ No ☐ National Register: Yes ☐ No ☐

(If Nominated: Eligibility Concurrence status by OHP: Yes ☐ No ☐ In process ☐

B. Site/Structure Eligibility Determination (for newly recorded, non-nominated or listed resources):

Not Eligible ☐

Explain (include documentation of negative DOE):

Potentially Eligible ☐

Criteria: A – Events ☐ B – People ☐ C—Design ☒ D—Information ☐

Significance Statement:

Integrity Discussion:

**III. DPR POLICY COMPLIANCE**

A. Is project consistent with General Plan?: Yes ☒ No ☐ GP date:

B. If no General Plan, is project scope consistent with current resource use?: Yes ☐ No ☐

C. Is project consistent with Cultural Resource Management Directives?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Comments:

Log No.: CEQA No.:

#### IV. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

##### A. Historic Resources

Historic Facility Name(s):

Will the proposed project impact historic resources? Yes ☐ No ☒

Describe impacts or non-impacts and provide Comments:

Is proposed project consistent with Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain.:

##### B. Archaeological Resources

Site Number(s):

Archaeological Site Type: Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Unknown ☐

Will the proposed project impact archaeological resources? Yes ☐ No ☐

Describe impacts or non-impacts and provide Comments:

Is proposed project consistent with Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines in relation to archaeological resources?:

Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

#### V. TREATMENTS AND MITIGATION

A. Would project redesign lessen resource impacts?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

B. Are appropriate treatment measures included within project scope?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

C.. Does treatment involve salvaging historic fabric or excavating archaeological deposits?: Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, has a recordation program or archaeological treatment plan been approved by a senior-level CRS? Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

D. In order to bring the project into compliance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards, the project should proceed with the following modifications or special provisions (Identify specific treatment measures): No redesign necessary.

#### VI. DETERMINATION

A. Is documentation sufficient for Determination of Effect?: Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, check below:

☐ NO DETERMINATION OF EFFECT CURRENTLY POSSIBLE

Explain:

If Yes: the reviewer has sufficient documentation to determine that the Proposed Project will have:

☐ No Effect: No Historical Resources Present (See Section )

☐ No Effect: No Historical Resources Affected

☐ No Adverse Effect

☐ Adverse Effect

on the Historical or Archaeological Resources of the State Park System.

Explain.:

Has a Secondary Review of this DOE been completed by a Cultural Resource Specialist?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Log No.:

CEQA No.:

**VII. APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION**

(APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT IS CONTINGENT ON PROJECT SCOPE NOT BEING CHANGED FROM ABOVE DESCRIPTION. IF SCOPE IS CHANGED, PROJECT MANAGER MUST CONTACT CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEWER(S) FOR POTENTIAL REVIEW.)

**Primary Reviews:****Historical Review**I recommend this project be Approved ☒ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐

**Explain: NO IMPACT.** Project is approved as designed. The clearing of vegetation as described in the project description will have no impact to any listed or potentially eligible resources. The project will have no impact on the landscape, the vegetation being cleared is not historic or intentionally planted orchards.

The resources identified in the cultural resource inventory for the park are not within the boundaries of this project, the vegetation clearing will have no impact on the setting of these resources.

Historical Reviewer: *Dan Osanna for* Andrew Shimizu

Date: 4/16/20

Title: Seasonal Archeological Specialist

Phone #: 916-605-6744

Hours Spent on Evaluation: 1

**Archaeological Review**I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐**Explain:**

Archaeological Reviewer:

Date:

Title:

Phone #:

Hours Spent on Evaluation:

**Restoration Architect Review**I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐**Explain:**

Architectural Reviewer:

Date:

Title:

Phone #:

Hours Spent on Evaluation:

**Secondary Review:**I recommend this project be Approved ☒ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐**Explain:** There are no historical resources in the APE for this project.Secondary Reviewer: Dan Osanna *Dan Osanna*

Title: Environmental Program Manager I

Phone #: 916 445 8836

Comments:

**Log No.:**

**CEQA No.:**

---

**Project Manager:**

**I understand that this project as proposed or modified may affect historical or archaeological resources. I will insure that all treatment measures necessary for the project to confirm with Historic Preservation standards and professional guidelines will be carried out as specified above. If project scope is changed, I will contact cultural resource reviewer(s) for potential re-review.**

**Project Manager:**

**Title:**

**Phone #:**

**Date:**

**FAX #:**

**Note:** All review packages must include a project map and appropriate documentation. For archaeological surveys, attach DPR 649 (or equivalent) with coverage map and site records. For historic structures, attach DPR 523 or 750. For archaeological sites, attach DPR 523.

Project ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

PCA No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)****HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****Findings:**

- ☐ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
- ☒ PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

**Explain**

There are no historical resources in the project APE.

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Dan Osanna

TITLE

Environmental Program Manager I

DATE

4/17/2020

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****Findings:**

- ☐ No Impact
- ☐ Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
- ☐ Potential Significant Impact

**Explain**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

**MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****COMMENTS:**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE



Project ID No.

**PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)**

PCA No.

**EVALUATION AND COMMENTS**

Castle Rock State Park- Black Oak Forest Enhancement Project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

*To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY.  
Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.*

**TRIBAL LIAISON COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)**

- ☒ Reviewer is Designated District/Service Center/Division Tribal Liaison or Designee  
☐ NAHC Listed Tribe(s) contacted (attach correspondence record for contact and findings)

**Findings:**

- ☐ Project action does not have potential to affect "tribal cultural" resources (explain)

**Check more than one box if tribes provide differing responses, and describe all consultations below.**

- ☐ Tribe(s) did not respond  
☒ Tribe(s) approved project as written  
☐ Tribe(s) approved project with treatments or conditions  
☐ Tribe(s) and DPR unable to reach mutual agreement on project treatments or conditions

**Explain**

Project is supported by tribal partners. Existing bedrock mortar milling stations will be avoided.

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Mark Hylkema

TITLE

Cultural Resources Program Manager

DATE

7/16/2020

**ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)****Findings:**

- ☐ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)  
☒ PRC 5024 attached; project approved as written  
☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary  
☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

**Explain**

The Northern Service Center has provided the PRC 5024 review (attached). However, they failed to acknowledge 6 bedrock mortar milling stations within the project Area of Direct Impact. After reviewing these locations, it is concluded that none of them will be impacted by the project as proposed. In fact, removing excess vegetation will help to mitigate damage from fire, which might result if the vegetation reduction project is not implemented.

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Mark Hylkema

TITLE

Cultural Resources Program Manager

DATE

7/16/2020



## Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 315ADD0873DE47F493DB0FC3615F4EE4

Status: Completed

Subject: Please DocuSign: CRSPblackoak\_pef\_docs.pdf, 20.04.09 Castle Rock Forest Fuel Reduction DPR 727 ...

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Document Pages: 28

Signatures: 6

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

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Scott Rohlf

AutoNav: Enabled

1416 9th Street, Room 950

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## Signer Events

Jordan Burgess

jordan.burgess@parks.ca.gov

Deputy District Sup

California State Department of Parks and Recreation

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
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## Signature

DocuSigned by:

*Jordan Burgess*

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Elizabeth Hammack

elizabeth.hammack@parks.ca.gov

State Park Interpreter III

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)

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*Elizabeth Hammack*

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Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
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Accepted: 7/20/2020 1:49:54 PM

ID: 10d15549-b68b-446e-af6f-cad047f6e105

Joanne Kerbavaz

joanne.kerbavaz@parks.ca.gov

Senior Environmental Scientist

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)

DocuSigned by:

*Joanne Kerbavaz*

112B43C585154E4...

Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device  
Using IP Address: 174.62.81.90

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## Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

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ID: f7b37387-68c0-45e2-954c-c8c1d4c23f5a

Rachel Arias

Rachel.Arias@parks.ca.gov

PMC

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)

DocuSigned by:

*Rachel Arias*

4A3B27A1425A4BE...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
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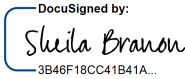
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Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Sheila Branon sheila.branon@parks.ca.gov Sr. Park and Recreation Specialist Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 24.6.89.182	Sent: 7/23/2020 8:28:04 AM Resent: 7/28/2020 8:36:16 AM Viewed: 7/28/2020 10:52:46 AM Signed: 7/28/2020 11:03:18 AM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Accepted: 7/28/2020 10:52:46 AM  
ID: 43677081-fb47-4d62-9141-8203a12bc146

Chris Spohrer chris.spohrer@parks.ca.gov DSII California State Department of Parks and Recreation Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 12.250.52.182	Sent: 7/28/2020 11:03:22 AM Viewed: 7/29/2020 2:18:14 PM Signed: 7/29/2020 2:20:40 PM
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In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	7/28/2020 11:03:22 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	7/29/2020 2:18:14 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	7/29/2020 2:20:40 PM
Completed	Security Checked	7/29/2020 2:20:40 PM
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To let us know of a change in your e-mail address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at [marlene.sheufelt@parks.ca.gov](mailto:marlene.sheufelt@parks.ca.gov) and in the body of such request you must state: your previous e-mail address, your new e-mail address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address..

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- ii. send us an e-mail to [marlene.sheufelt@parks.ca.gov](mailto:marlene.sheufelt@parks.ca.gov) and in the body of such request you must state your e-mail, full name, US Postal Address, telephone number, and account number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

**Required hardware and software**

Operating Systems:	Windows2000? or WindowsXP?
Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Allow per session cookies</li><li>•Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection</li></ul>

\*\* These minimum requirements are subject to change. If these requirements change, we will provide you with an email message at the email address we have on file for you at that time providing you with the revised hardware and software requirements, at which time you will have the right to withdraw your consent.

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