

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: Cannabis Remediation and Floodplain Restoration

LOCATION: [George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area](#)

COUNTY: Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Remediate several former illegal cannabis cultivation sites at George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area and habitat restoration and fuel reduction within approximately 20 acres of riparian habitat. The project sites border the Merced River just east of its confluence with the San Joaquin River. Project work is as follows:

- Remove and dispose of all cannabis cultivation related materials (i.e. irrigation, chemicals, contaminated soil, etc.) and other signs of impact to the natural resources;
- Rehabilitate illegal use trails and re-contour affected area, if necessary;
- Thin and pile burn fuels from the understory trees and shrubs and remove excess surface and ladder fuel loads that resulted from grow operations and lack of vegetation management;
- Replace an approx. 3,100-foot long barbwire State Park property fence along Kelley Road with a new wooden split-rail fence at the same location and along the same alignment;
- Remove non-native, invasive plants on a monthly schedule until full establishment of native plants; and
- Monitor progress to determine efficacy of non-native and invasive plant removal and ensure that the site is not reoccupied by illegal cannabis cultivators.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation
NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Central Valley District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 2, 4 & 6 Section: 15301, 15302, 15304 & 15306

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; consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural resources; and consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and is included as "Resource Management Projects" and "Baseline Monitoring" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

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Central Valley District

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Danielle Gerhart, District Superintendent

DATE

3/3/22