



**State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Special Event Permit at Pismo State Beach- Cal Poly Rodeo

LOCATION: Pismo State Beach

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This project authorizes the temporary use of Pismo State Beach (PSB) for the Break-A-Wave Rodeo occurring the evenings of September 24 and 25, 2025. This special two-day event is produced by Cal Poly Rodeo in partnership with Outriders Present and is expected to attract an estimated 2000 attendees alongside 150 persons associated with the event (security, vendors, State Park staff, rodeo production, and participants). The event will occur mid-week and includes breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, and unique specialty acts in a temporary arena with spectator seating, fencing, ticketing, and security measures. The event footprint is entirely within a publicly accessible and developed recreational area and will consist primarily of:

- Temporary fencing and staging on the beach near Grand Avenue beach entrance and within the PSB dirt parking lot area (~6-7 acres).
- Use of Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue for ticketed vehicle access including an estimated 700 cars entering at Pier Avenue Kiosk and 300 cars entering Grand Avenue Kiosk (isolated to VIP, contestants, and sponsors). Clear signage and security checks by Miller Security will be in place at each entrance. Parking will be in designated areas on the beach south of Grand Avenue entrance.
- Installation of bleachers, portable restrooms/chemical toilets, wash stations, AV/sound equipment, food, drink, and partner vendor(s), and production trailers on the beach adjacent to Grand Ave in an area approximately one acre.
- Daily staffing from State Parks Rangers, Lifeguards, Natural Resources, Maintenance and Planning during set-up and rodeo activities to ensure compliance, public safety, natural resource monitoring, traffic management, and sanitation.
- Amplified music and announcements will occur during the event using speakers directed towards the ocean. Decibel levels will be consistent with local and state noise ordinances and/or permitted conditions.
- Use of drone(s) for filming during rodeo event in coordination with Natural Resource staff.
- Possible Blackhawk Copter flyover from Santa Barbara County Fire Department at the start of the event.
- An offsite traffic management plan is being coordinated between CHP, SLO County Sherriff, Grover Beach Police Department, and State Parks.

All installations are temporary and will be removed immediately following the event. Ground disturbance is limited to fence posts, restroom trailer placement, and utility connections on already disturbed surfaces (dirt lot, beach sand, paved access). No grading, demolition, or permanent construction is being proposed.

Monitoring and oversight include:

- Daily safety/tailgate briefings among State Parks, security, and production staff to outline permit conditions, expectations, and site constraints.

- Coordination with Natural Resources staff regarding use of adjacent hydrant water to lightly wet the sand in and near the arena for the safety of horses and participants.
- Natural Resources staff shall work to outline expectations and site constraints with rodeo staff prior to the start of rodeo activities. Natural Resource staff will be on-site during all set-up and event activities to ensure that impacts to snowy plovers, flocks of roosting birds, surfacing Pismo clams, and stranded marine mammals and birds are minimized. Event areas will be surveyed prior to and during all event activities. Sensitive wildlife signage will be posted and adjusted accordingly if snowy plovers are seen in the event and/or beach parking areas south of Grand Avenue. Natural Resource staff have the authority to halt or modify event activities if unforeseen resource conflicts and disturbances are observed, including prohibiting event activities in sensitive wildlife zones.
- Sensitive dune habitat will be fenced and signed to prevent un-authorized public access for event viewing. Event security staff will enforce this closure during all activities.
- Enforcement of public access requirements through a District Superintendent Order to preserve shoreline emergency access lanes, public access corridors, and lateral beach access during the event.
- Staffing requirements per DN-95 to recover costs for State Park staff involved with this event (i.e. natural resource monitoring, traffic management, sanitation, and law enforcement).

This project does not introduce permanent facilities, expand the operational footprint of the park, or affect sensitive habitats. Activities are temporary, controlled, and within existing developed areas. Impacts are minor and will be restored following the event.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Oceano Dunes District

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Section)
- Categorical Exemption
Class:11 Section:15311, Class: 23 Section 15323

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The event qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Class 11 Accessory Structures (Section 15311) which consists of placement of temporary use items such as on-premise signs, portable restrooms, and fencing. Class 23 Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (Section 15323) also applies, which consists of temporary special events at established facilities with negligible environmental impact.

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DocuSigned by
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Jon O'Brien
Acting District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District

September 23, 2025
DATE