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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
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Fairfield, CA 94534
(707) 428-2002
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***GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor***
***CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director***

To:
Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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**Project Title:** Castle Rock State Park Saratoga Gap Trail Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-SCR-57250-R3)

**Project Location (Santa Cruz County):** There are two locations for this Project: Project Location 1) Bridge Replacement 1/South Bridge: The Project is located at an unnamed tributary to the San Lorenzo River, in the County of Santa Cruz County, State of California; Latitude 37.24104, Longitude -122.11961; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 088-071-18; and Project Location 2) Bridge Replacement 2/North Bridge: The Project is located at an unnamed tributary to the San Lorenzo River, in the County of Santa Cruz County, State of California; Latitude 37.24145, Longitude -122.11962; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 088-071-18.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-SCR-57250-R3, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the California Department of Recreation, as represented by Michael Towne.

Bridge Replacement 1/South Bridge: The Project is limited to the demolition and removal of the existing southern bridge structure and installation of the new bridge structure in the same location. The previous bridge structure constrained the creek at the crossing and created an unnatural bank slope. Following the removal of the old bridge structures, the top of bank of the creek and adjacent areas will be regraded to restore the area to a more natural bank slope. Additionally, a small area (16 by 20 foot) adjacent to but outside the top of bank is proposed to be excavated at a sharp bend of the creek upstream of the bridge to limit erosion and prevent future bank failure. Brush boxes are proposed to be installed at the toe of slope for the opposite bank to stabilize the bank edge where erosion is occurring due to the sharp angle of the creek in this location. The brush boxes will consist of natural fiber netting and cuttings from locally sourced plant species.

Bridge Replacement 2/North Bridge: The Project is limited to the demolition and removal of the existing northern bridge structure and installation of the new bridge structure in the same location. The previous bridge structure constrained the creek at the crossing and

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created an unnatural bank slope. Following the removal of the old bridge structures, the top of bank of the creek and adjacent areas will be regraded to restore the area to a more natural bank slope.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**
Teri Crawford
California Department of Parks and Recreation
District Environmental Coordinator
(831) 335-896
Teri.Crawford@parks.ca.gov
303 Big Trees Park Road P.O. Box 942896
Felton, CA 95018

**Exempt Status:**

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class (2 & 4); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15302 & 15304)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Project consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced and minor alterations in the condition of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, except for forestry purposes.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Alexis Harrison (Environmental Scientist), (707) 815-2779, and Alexis.Harrison@wildlife.ca.gov

*Signature:* DocuSigned by: Craig Weightman 7988F6C4FDC24F2... *Date:* 8/26/2025

Craig J. Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____