NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Mail Stop: A-33
ARCC-Recorder
Attn: CEQA Postings
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

☒ State Clearinghouse
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
P.O. Box 3044

FROM: Mail Stop: 029
County of San Diego,
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Kiran Seibel
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Pott's Flume Trail Rehabilitation

Project Location: Pott's Flume Historic Trail, Lakeside, CA

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270 San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 565-3600

Project Description: In 2019, DPR acquired the Historic Flume Segment of the San Diego River Trail and subsequent existing 2.3-mile-long trail in El Monte Valley to connect between the El Monte Flume Trail to the west and Historic Flume Trail segment to the east. The project includes 2.3 miles of trail improvements to an existing trail. Work to rehabilitate the Pott's Flume Trail would include but is not limited to, asbestos pipe removal, barbed wire fence removal, trail maintenance, installation of interpretive and directional signage, and erosion control.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego Date Form Completed: 1/12/2025

County Contact Person: Michael John Espiritu Telephone: (619) 913-8488

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above-described project on **November 14, 2025** and found the project to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

☐ Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
☐ Statutory Exemption. C Section:
☒ Categorical Exemption. G Section(s): 15301, 15302, 15304, 15330, 15333
☐ G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
☐ Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
☐ G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: The proposed action complies with CEQA because it is: (1) categorically exempt under Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines, Existing Facilities, as it involves the rehabilitation of an existing trail that would undergo improvements with negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; (2) categorically exempt under Section 15302 of CEQA Guidelines, Replacement or Reconstruction, because the improvements would occur on the same site as the existing trail facility and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing facility; (3) categorically exempt under Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, Minor Alterations to Land, because minor land disturbance may be required for the project which would not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; (4) categorically exempt under Section 15330 of the CEQA Guidelines, Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances, because it involves a small removal action of sealed hazardous waste; and (5) categorically exempt under Section 15333 of the CEQA Guidelines, as the project may include maintenance and revegetation of less than five acres.

Additionally, there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions and no features that would distinguish this project that would constitute unusual circumstances. The project would not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to a cumulative environmental impact; would not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and does not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Kiran Seibel Digitally signed by Kiran Seibel Date: 2026.01.12 10:49:03 -08'00' Telephone: (619) 209-9922

Name (Print): Kiran Seibel Title: Group Program Manager, Resource Management Division

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.