

District Project # 730-312-20250609
CEQA # 14333



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
 Central Valley District
 22708 Broadway Street
 Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: ADA Trail Construction

LOCATION: George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area

COUNTY: Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project proposes to construct a new .75-mile ADA compliant trail between Kelley Road and the Merced River and install a new fence in George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area to enhance accessibility for all visitors and provide a seamless experience for those with mobility challenges. Work proposed for this project will include the following:

- Brush and clear the proposed new alignment as needed;
- Excavate and export approx. 5,850 cubic feet of soil;
- Fill and grade up to 19,720 cubic feet of soil to create and approx. 3,960 ft long x 5-ft wide trail;
- Install dry-stacked rock walls as edging;
- Install one (1) approx. 60-ft bridge and one (1) approx. 65-ft bridge, each with steel stringers with dry-stacked rock abutments and multi-tier rock retaining walls;
- Construct one (1) approx. 20-ft long x 5-ft wide boardwalk/puncheon;
- Construct one (1) approx. 306-ft long x 5-ft wide elevated wooden boardwalk;
- Install two (2) wooden benches;
- Install one (1) interpretive panel;
- Remove approx. 3,100 linear ft of existing barbed wire fence;
- Use hand tools or gas-powered augers to excavate up to 390, 3-ft deep x 10-in. diameter holes;
- Place a 6-ft fence post in each hole with approx. 3-ft above grade;
- Backfill around posts with excavated soils and compact to secure;
- Attach split rails to posts; and
- Spread remaining excavated soils on site.

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, 3 & 4 *Section:* 15301, 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes included as "Trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Andrew Collum, DEC
 Central Valley District

PHONE NO.: (209) 768-2492
EMAIL: Andrew.Collum@parks.ca.gov

1/27/2026

DocuSigned by:

 D366D4E15BEB404...

Danielle Gerhart
 District Superintendent
 Central Valley District

DATE