

**State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
7806 Folsom-Auburn Road  
Folsom, CA 95630

**PROJECT TITLE:** Auburn State Recreation Area Landscape Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project

**LOCATION:** Auburn State Recreation Area      **COUNTY:** El Dorado, Placer

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The purpose of the project is to remove excess fuels from overgrown areas and maintain understory vegetation within Auburn State Recreation Area in a manner that protects forest functions and biodiversity and reduces wildfire risk. Work will be completed by Department staff, Department-hired contractors, and/or by issuing Right of Entry (ROE) Permits to adjacent property owners to allow the permittee or the permittee’s contractor to perform necessary vegetation modifications beyond the 100-foot defensible space guidelines, while remaining consistent with all Department guidelines and policies and the forest prescription for the treatment area. All activities will adhere to the following standard conditions:

- No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed unless doing so meets forest management goals for the park as determined by the Senior Environmental Scientist and/or consistent with a prescription from a registered professional forester.
- Pruning will follow techniques outlined in the Department’s “Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in Units of the California State Park System” (January 8, 2002).
- Implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures to reduce the risk of damaging elderberry shrubs, which serve as a host plant to the federally listed valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB).
- Heavy equipment shall not operate or stage within any areas identified by a Department cultural specialist nor within the root health zone of retained trees, defined as an area five (5) times the diameter at breast height (DBH).
- Dispose of debris from vegetation management/brushing activities as follows (listed in order of preferred method):
  - Pile and burn, chip and broadcast (away from all drainages and tree trunks and not exceed 4 inches deep in any given area), and/or lop and scatter. Piles may only be lit on approved burn days, by qualified fire-trained crews with all appropriate permit and entries. A Department cultural resource specialist will pre-approve locations for piles to be burned.
- If herbicides are approved for use, they will be limited to a DPR-approved list.
- Develop a site-specific strategy to ensure resource management goals are met and to address existing invasive plant species, including monitoring and follow-up treatments as necessary.

For Permittee and State contractors:

- Notify DPR District Specialists by email, at least 14 days prior to the start of any proposed work; do not proceed until site review work has been completed and, if deemed necessary, have any area-specific conditions identified in writing by the specialists;

- Complete work only during periods identified by Specialists to protect sensitive species or habitats;
- Have work completed or monitored by Department staff or DPR-approved contract personnel; and
- Unless otherwise specified in the terms of their permit, private homeowners and their contractor(s) shall not use herbicides.

Further details regarding the work proposed as well as measures to be implemented to avoid impacts to the environment may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below. Work will comply with all State and Federal environmental laws, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act, California Environmental Quality Act, Section 5024 of the Public Resources Code, and all conditions identified in the Right of Entry Permit; and be coordinated with the Gold Field District's staff as identified in the Right of Entry Permit.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Gold Fields District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

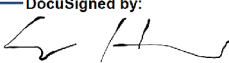
Categorical Exemption      Class: 1, 4, 5      Section: 15301, 15304, 15305

**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; 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; and minor alterations in land use limitations in areas with an average slope of less than 20%, which do not result in any changes in land use or density and are included as "Resource management projects" and "issuance of temporary use permit" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

**CONTACT:** Jim Micheaels, Gold Fields District

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**PHONE:** (916) 988-0205

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2/10/2026

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 Steve Hilton, District Superintendent

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 Date