**State of California – The Resources Agency**
**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
Santa Cruz District
303 Big Trees Road
Felton, CA 95018

**PROJECT TITLE:** Año Nuevo Island Climate-Resilient Seabird Habitat

**LOCATION:** Año Nuevo State Park **COUNTY:** San Mateo

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Project consists of maintaining and expanding nesting habitats through two (2) integrated activities at Año Nuevo Island at Año Nuevo State Park in order to protect burrow and ground-nesting seabirds from habitat disturbance caused by California Sea Lions. Work will consist of the following:

**Seabird Conservation Fence-Habitat Ridge Construction:** Construct a redwood fence in the same footprint to continue protecting fragile nesting areas, which comprise approximately one acre (20% of ANI's seabird habitat). The design will be similar to an existing fence and will maintain a low visual and ecological impact. No significant excavation will be required.

**Ceramic Nest Modules Installation:** Install 75 durable ceramic nest modules above-ground in strategic locations informed by erosion risk. The modules are customized for ANI, manufactured from non-toxic materials, and designed for minimal maintenance, with an expected service life of 50+ years. Additionally, 45 of the existing ceramic nests will be retrofitted with the new sunshields so they can be placed above-ground and avoid future erosion concerns.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Santa Cruz District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**
☒ Categorical Exemption *Class:* 1, 2, 3 & 4 *Section: 15301, 15302, 15303 & 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities 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; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, included as “Construction or installation of park facilities such as fencing and gates” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4; 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.

**CONTACT:** Linda Hitchcock
Santa Cruz District

**PHONE NO.:** (831) 227-8390
**EMAIL:** Linda.Hitchcock@parks.ca.gov

Chris Spohrer 7/6/26

Chris Spohrer DATE
District Superintendent
Santa Cruz District