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County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD
JUL 13 2026
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

To: Clerk of the Board
Attn: Stephanie Cabrera
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Name: Miller County Park Trails

Project Location: Miller County Park

Assessor Parcel No.: 08509208, 08515205, & 08515303

Project Applicant: Santa Cruz County Parks

Project Description:
Miller County Park is located at 16798 Kings Creek Road near the community of Boulder Creek in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The park consists of approximately 410 acres across three contiguous parcels (APNs 085-152-05, 085-153-03, and 085-092-08) owned by the County of Santa Cruz and subject to a conservation easement held by Save the Redwoods League. The existing landscape consists of mature redwood forest and riparian habitat adjacent to Kings Creek. The property also includes approximately 2.5 miles of informal trails and an established parking area. The park is currently underutilized, and the existing trail system is in poor condition and in need of maintenance and rehabilitation. The purpose of the project is to improve public access, visitor safety, trail sustainability, and resource protection by formalizing and renovating the existing trail network.

The project includes rehabilitation and formalization of the approximately 2.5-mile trail network. Improvements include abandonment and restoration of approximately 1 mile of degraded and unsustainable trail segments. Approximately 1.8 miles of new trail segments will be constructed to replace and bypass the abandoned trail sections while maintaining connectivity within the trail network and improving trail sustainability. The project also includes installation of wayfinding signs, maps, and interpretive displays. Trail improvements may include minor grading (approximately 200 cubic yards), tread improvements, drainage improvements, erosion control measures, revegetation, and related site improvements necessary to support trail construction and restoration activities.

The project constitutes minor alterations to existing public facilities involving negligible expansion of use and is therefore exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). The project also includes minor alterations to land associated with trail rehabilitation, trail reroutes, restoration activities, drainage improvements, erosion control measures, and revegetation. The project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees and is therefore exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). All project activities will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Miller Property Conservation Easement. No healthy, mature redwood trees will be removed as part of the project. The project is limited to trail rehabilitation, trail reroutes, restoration of abandoned trail segments, signage, and associated trail improvements. Future park improvements not described herein are not included as part of this project. These improvements will enhance trail sustainability, reduce erosion, sedimentation, water quality, and other resource impacts associated with degraded and unsustainable trail segments, and improve public access within an existing county park.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING 7/13/2026
AND ENDING 8/18/2026

Revised 7/10/2026

Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Cruz

County Contact: Britta Denise Hardesty Telephone No. 831-454-5357

Date Completed: 10 July 2026

This is to advise that the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Planning Division, CDI has approved the above-described project on **10 July 2026** and found the project to be exempt from CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status: (*check one*)

☐ The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
☐ The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
☐ The proposed activity is exempt from CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).
☐ **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.

☐ **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
Specify type:

☒ **Categorical Exemption**

- **Class 1 (Existing Facilities, CEQA Guidelines §15301**): Rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use, including improvements to an existing trail network within an established county park.

- **Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land, CEQA Guidelines §15304**): Minor alterations to land, including trail reroutes, trail restoration, minor grading may include minor grading (approximately 200 cubic yards), tread improvements, drainage, drainage improvements, erosion control measures, revegetation, and associated trail improvements that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees.

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The project consists of rehabilitation and formalization of an existing trail network within Miller County Park. Improvements include trail reroutes, restoration of degraded and unsustainable trail segments, installation of wayfinding signs, maps, and interpretive displays, and other minor improvements necessary to improve connectivity, sustainability, and public access. The project represents a negligible expansion of existing recreational use within an established county park.

Project activities are limited to trail rehabilitation, trail reroutes, restoration activities, signage, and associated trail improvements. All work will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Miller Property Conservation Easement. No healthy, mature redwood trees will be removed, and the project will improve resource protection through the restoration of degraded and unsustainable trail segments.

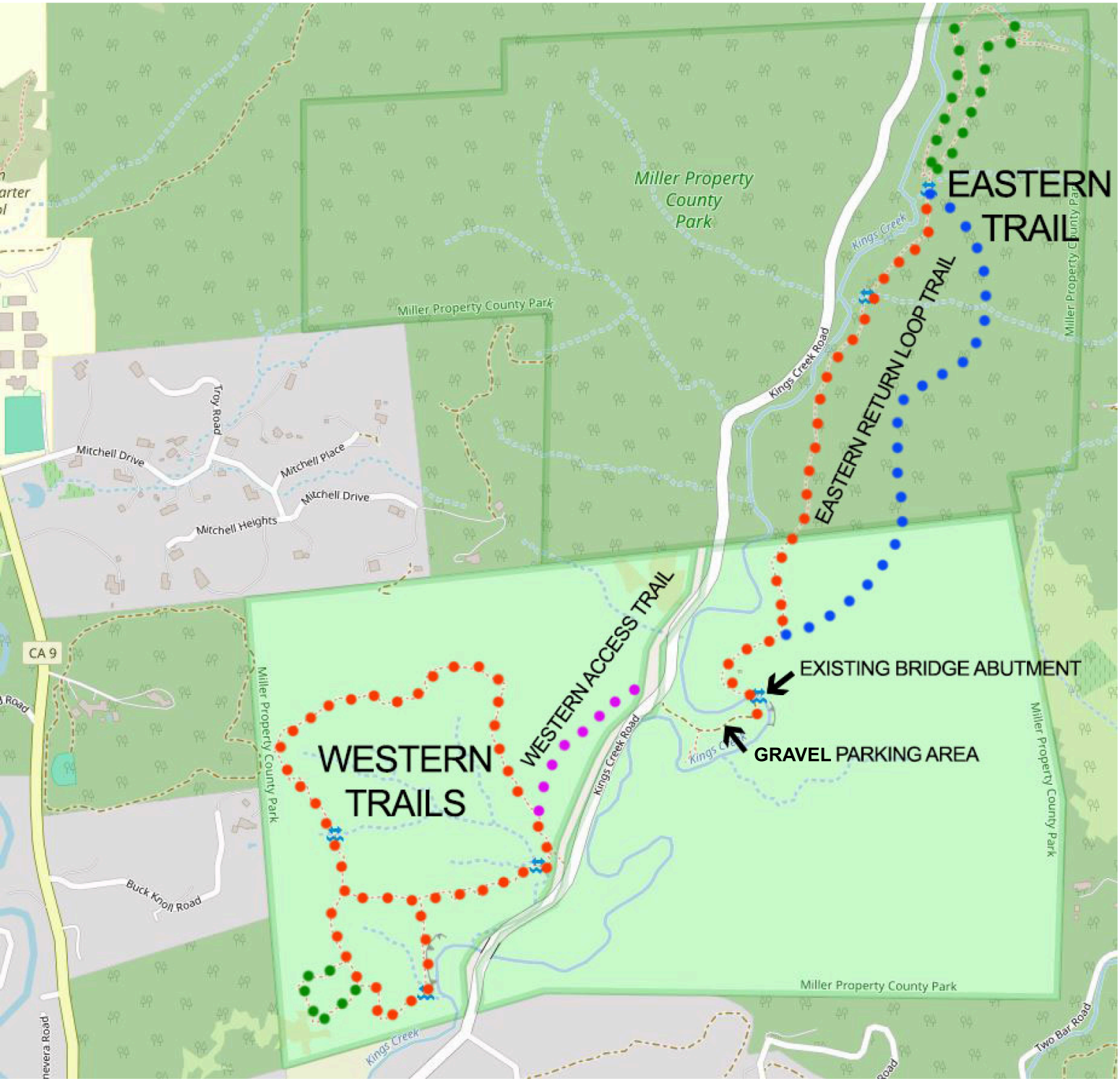
None of the exceptions to categorical exemptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

B Hardesty

Signature: _____ Date: 10 July 2026

Titled: Environmental Coordinator

Exhibit A – Miller County Park Project Scope



Red – Existing trails to be formalized

Green – Existing trails to be closed

Blue – Proposed Eastern Return Loop Trail

Magenta – Proposed Western Access Trail