



**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: Natural Bridges Monarch Grove Fuels Reduction

LOCATION: Natural Bridges State Beach

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project consists of fuels reduction at Natural Bridges State Beach for the purpose of enhancing monarch overwintering habitat. Work will take place prior to the overwintering season and will consist of using chainsaws to consolidate downed materials and accumulating ladder fuels into approximately 20 burn piles within the Monarch Butterfly Nature Preserve. Pile burning will occur April-May 2027 when conditions are favorable for prescription burning and after all monarchs have migrated away from the overwintering site.

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 & 4 *Section:* 15301 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, maintenance, 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; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation and is included as "Prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" and "Resource management projects" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR§15300.4.

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Jordan Burgess

10/1/26

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DATE

Deputy District Superintendent
Santa Cruz District