



**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
2241 Harvard Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95815

PROJECT TITLE: Abandoned Waterline Removal Project

LOCATION: Gaviota State Park

COUNTY: Santa Barbara

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Remove and dispose of a series of surface-mounted abandoned stainless steel and cast-iron waterline pipes along the Gaviota Creek/Highway 101 corridor in Gaviota State Park. Located approximately 30-ft. above Gaviota Creek the waterlines are anchored to the hillside and weave in and around native trees, extending for approximately 1500 feet to the Southbound Highway 101 rest stop at Gaviota Pass in Gaviota State Park.

Because of Gaviota Creek's potential habitat for California red legged frog (CRLF) and steelhead, and the project site's very constrained access, the pipelines will be secured to a crane boom by personnel stationed on a telescoping or articulated manlift. Once detached from their anchors, pipe sections will be cut and carefully removed by crane and subsequently loaded onto a flatbed trailer for removal and proper disposal. Entry into Gaviota Creek will be limited only to incidental retrieval of any existing debris and debris that may enter the stream as a result of the removal effort. The Project is not expected to require removal of any native trees, but tree trimming is likely, and some removal remains a possibility since many trees have grown in and around the pipeline over the decades since their installation.

As there are no suitable locations within this area of the park for equipment and personnel to access the pipeline, equipment will be initially staged in the closed Caltrans rest stop, after which it will be moved into position along the shoulder of the highway. Therefore, Project implementation will necessitate the temporary closure of the Number 2 southbound lane, which necessitates a Caltrans Encroachment Permit as well as a Traffic Control Plan.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: California State Parks - NSC

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, 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 which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

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DocuSigned by:

Brian Dewey

10/7/2026

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Brian Dewey

DATE

Assistant Deputy Director
Facilities and Development