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NOV 10 2026
JULIE BUSTAMANTE
LASSEN COUNTY CLERK
By _____ Deputy

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Lassen
220 South Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130

State Clearinghouse
CA Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit Portal

FROM: Lassen County Department of Planning and Building Services
707 Nevada Street, Suite 5
Susanville, CA 96130

Project Title: Formation of the Herlong Recreation and Park District.

File Number: 1133.02

Project Proponent: Al Rocca, Director and Chief, United States Search and Rescue, 501(C)(3).

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Lead Agency Contact Person: Gaylon F. Norwood

Phone No.: (530) 251-8269

Project Location: Unincorporated territory located within Lassen County in and around the community of Herlong, CA. Bounded within the Mount Diablo Meridian across the following coordinates: Township 27 North, Range 16 East: Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36; Township 27 North, Range 17 East: Sections 30 and 31; Township 28 North, Range 16 East: Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4. Total Area ±7,145 Acres.

Project Description: Proposal to form a new, independent Recreation and Park District under California Public Resources Code Section 5780 et seq. to provide localized recreation, habitat protection, and open-space stewardship. Initial physical project activities on an approved 40-acre parcel lease near the Herlong Public Utility District treatment facility include unpaved trail clearing, basic grading for a 10-car dirt parking lot, and the installation of removable picnic tables and site signage.

Exempt Status:

1. ☐ Ministerial (Sec.21080(b)(1); 15268);
2. ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec.21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
3. ☐ Emergency Project (Sec.21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
4. ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15320 (Class 20) and Section
   15304 (Class 4).
5. ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State type and section number:
6. ☒ Other: 15061(b)(3), "General Rule" Exemption;

Reason why project is exempt:

On November 10, 2026, the Lassen County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 26-061, approving the application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for the formation of the Herlong Recreation and Park District. In taking this action, the Board formally concurred with the Environmental Review Officer that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Environmental Review Officer and the Board of Supervisors have determined that this proposal is exempt from CEQA under Sections 15320, 15304, and 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines based on the following findings:

Per Section 15320 (Class 20), CEQA exempts actions by regulatory agencies for changes in the organization or local structure of local agencies. This project establishes an administrative and organizational structure to govern localized territory where no competing recreation district exists.

Per Section 15304 (Class 4), CEQA exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The district's initial Year 1 project activities are strictly limited to low-impact physical enhancements on a 40-acre parcel, consisting of unpaved trail clearing, minor dirt parking lot grading, and the placement of removable picnic tables and regulatory/interpretive signs. This results in negligible physical disruption to the existing baseline conditions.

This project also qualifies for the Common-Sense Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). This rule applies where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. The district's master focus emphasizes passive outdoor recreation (such as hiking, birdwatching, and nature observation) and active ecological preservation. The district will actively enforce regulations to protect the habitat of the federally listed Carson Wandering Skipper butterfly, while resolving existing environmental degradation by mitigating illegal dumping and local fire hazards. Because the project secures natural

open spaces and contains no components that create a cumulative environmental burden, it can be stated with absolute certainty that there is no possibility of a significant adverse effect on the environment.

The project site is not located within a designated wetland or on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (the "Cortese List").

Gaylon F. Norwood 11-10-2026

Gaylon F. Norwood Environmental Review Officer Date

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