Notice of Determination

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

To: [ ] County Clerk
County of San Mateo or Santa Cruz
555 County Center, 701 Ocean Street,
Redwood City, CA 94063 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: California Department of Parks and Recreation (lead agency)
303 Big Trees Park Road,
Felton, CA 95018
Chris Spohrer, District Superintendent II
(831) 234-5140

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052
Project Title: The Forest of Nisene Marks PSA/Addendum
Project Location: Aptos, CA 95003 Approx. Centroid Coordinates: 37.048489, -121.883828

Project Description: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) proposes to implement vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments on up to 9,955 acres of land within the project area. The project area consists of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park located within the town of Aptos in central Santa Cruz County. California State Parks has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis and CEQA Addendum to evaluate if the proposed project is within the scope of the California Vegetation Treatment Program EIR (CalVTP PEIR), consider revisions or changes to the PEIR that would expand its coverage to include all project areas, and provide environmental information on the proposed project. Treatment types include ecological restoration and wildland-urban interface fuels reduction. Treatment activities include prescribed burning, manual, mechanical, and targeted herbicide application treatments. The goal of the ecologically restorative treatments proposed in this PSA/Addendum is to support the existing floral and faunal diversity of the park and decrease the risk of catastrophic high severity fire through the implementation of treatment activities that mimic disturbance regimes and use ecological processes that these systems evolved with to the extent feasible. The Forest of Nisene Marks PSA/Addendum to the PEIR was prepared for the project as a later activity covered by the CalVTP PEIR.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the California Department of Parks and Recreation [X] Lead Agency has approved the above-described project on August 12, 2025 and has made the following determinations:

For a PSA/Addendum to an EIR:

1. The project ([X]will [ ]will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Forest of Nisene Marks PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR (SCH# 2019012052) ([X]was [ ]was not) prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. The CalVTP PEIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project ([ ]will [X]will not) result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP PEIR.
   a. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in project areas within the CalVTP treatable landscape ([X]are [ ]are not) within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
   b. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape ([ ]would [X]would not) result in the occurrence of any of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR; therefore, an Addendum has been adopted to address the project areas outside the geographic extent presented in the PEIR.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP PEIR ([X]were [ ]were not) made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
5. The implementation of applicable CalVTP PEIR mitigation measures and standard project requirements ([X]will [ ]will not) be monitored and reported pursuant to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
6. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP PEIR ([X]was [ ]was not) reaffirmed for this project by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.
7. Findings ([X]were [ ]were not) made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Forest of Nisene Marks PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR and record of project approval are available to the general public via California State Parks at 303 Big Trees Park Road, Felton, CA, 95018. The custodian of these documents is Tim Hyland, Senior Environmental Scientist. Please contact Tim Hyland at tim.hyland@parks.ca.gov or (831) 345-3331 to arrange document viewing.

Signature: Jordan Burgess
Title: Deputy District Superintendent
Date: 8/13/25
Dated Received for filing at OPR:
Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.