



44-06032025-084
County of Santa Cruz

Department of Community Development and Infrastructure

701 Ocean Street, Fourth Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Planning (831) 454-2580 Public Works (831) 454-2160
sccoplanning.com dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

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RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD

JUN 03 2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

Project Name: 188 Whiting Road | Interim Uses
Project Location: 188 Whiting Road, Watsonville.
Assessor Parcel No.: 051-042-01
Project Applicant: Santa Cruz County Parks
County Contact: Rob Tidmore
Telephone No. (831) 454-7397

Project Description: The project site encompasses approximately 38 acres currently zoned for Commercial Agriculture. The site includes a mix of wooded perimeter areas, a small apple orchard in the northern corner, and approximately 28 contiguous acres of primarily open annual grassland. There are three small concrete slab foundations along the northern boundary, a well, and a rudimentary pipeline irrigation system. There are no residential structures on the site. The Santa Cruz County Parks Department proposes implementing **interim public use improvements** that will allow for limited public access with minimal physical changes to the site. The proposed scope of work includes:

- Grading and consolidation of the existing driveway and parking area using Class II base rock along the northern border;
- Installation of an accessible parking space adjacent to an existing concrete slab;
- Removal of an existing outfall drainage pipe and installation of a concrete coupler and new concrete drainage pipe connecting to the existing concrete culvert;
- Construction of a half-mile tractor path to serve as a temporary trail;
- Placement of County-supplied reclaimed logs to constrain vehicular access to the existing driveway and parking areas, and for informal seating.

All proposed improvements are located within the northern portion of the site, specifically within the annual grassland area, which was previously farmed. The modifications are designed to be temporary and to avoid impacts to sensitive habitats or species. No permanent buildings or major landscape alterations are proposed. The project does not conflict with the existing Commercial Agriculture zoning designation, which remains unchanged.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 6/3/2025
AND ENDING 7/8/2025

This is to advise that the County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development and Infrastructure has reviewed the above-described project 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 – Repair and Maintenance of Existing Facilities and Class 4 – Minor Alteration to Land

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The proposed actions are consistent with a **Notice of Exemption** under CEQA, as the repair of the existing culvert is an existing facility and improvements to an existing parking area, placement of logs, and the creation of a temporary tractor path represent minor alterations to land and involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (§15304 and §15301).

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Matt Johnston Date 5/27/2025 Title: Environmental Coordinator
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