



County of Santa Cruz



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 7/13/2026
AND ENDING 8/18/2026

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

Project Name: Anna Jean Cummings County Park Water Line Replacement Project

Project Location: Anna Jean Cummings County Park, 461 Soquel San Jose Road, Soquel, CA 95073

Assessor Parcel No.: 030-341-09

Project Applicant: Santa Cruz County Parks

Project Description:

Anna Jean Cummings County Park is located at 461 Soquel San Jose Road in Soquel, California (APN 030-341-09). The park is owned and operated by the County of Santa Cruz and provides a variety of recreational amenities including sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms, trails, open space areas, and supporting infrastructure. The park was developed in accordance with the O'Neill Ranch Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report adopted by the County to guide the long-term recreational use and management of the property. Existing utility infrastructure, including domestic water service, supports park operations and visitor-serving facilities throughout the site. The existing domestic waterline serving park facilities has experienced recurring leaks and requires frequent maintenance and repair. The leaks generally occur at intervals corresponding to individual pipe segments located beneath portions of the park entry drive, requiring excavation within paved areas to access and repair the line. To improve long-term reliability, reduce maintenance costs, reduce waste of potable water, and minimize future disruptions to park operations, the County proposes replacing an approximately 1,300-foot-long portion of the existing waterline and relocating portions of the alignment to adjacent landscaped areas where future access and maintenance can be more readily accomplished.

The project consists of replacing a portion of the existing domestic water distribution system serving Anna Jean Cummings County Park with approximately 1,300 linear feet of new waterline and associated components installed within previously disturbed and developed portions of the park. The new waterline will connect to the existing system at the southern side of the athletic fields and extend west toward the restroom facility and east toward the restroom and recreational facilities adjacent to the play area. The proposed alignment relocates portions of the existing waterline from beneath the park entry drive into adjacent landscaped and maintained areas to improve accessibility for future maintenance activities, reduce the likelihood of disruptions to park operations, reduce waste of potable water, and improve the long-term reliability of the water system. Project improvements include trench excavation, installation of new waterline, and related utility infrastructure necessary to maintain water service to existing park facilities. The project also includes abandonment of the existing waterline, limited saw-cutting and restoration of sidewalks and paved surfaces where necessary, reconnection to existing facilities, and restoration of all disturbed areas following construction. All work will occur within the boundaries of Anna Jean Cummings County Park and within areas that have been previously developed, landscaped, or otherwise disturbed. The replacement waterline will serve the same park facilities and provide the same purpose and capacity as the existing system. No expansion of park facilities, recreational amenities, or utility service is proposed. No tree removal is anticipated as part of the project, and all disturbed areas will be restored following completion of construction.

The project is limited to replacement of the existing domestic waterline and associated utility infrastructure and constitutes the repair, maintenance, minor alteration, and replacement of an existing public utility system involving negligible or no expansion of existing use. Accordingly, the project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines

Revised 7/8/2026

Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction). The project also includes minor trenching, backfilling, and restoration activities within previously disturbed areas and is therefore exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Cruz

County Contact: Britta Denise Hardesty

Telephone No. 831-454-5357

Date Completed: 8 July 2026

This is to advise that the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Planning Division, CDI, has approved the above-described project on 8 July 2026 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 (Existing Facilities, CEQA Guidelines §15301):** Repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public utility facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use, including replacement of an existing domestic water distribution system serving an established county park.
- **Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction, CEQA Guidelines §15302(c)):** Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and facilities involving substantially the same purpose and capacity as the facilities replaced.
- **Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land, CEQA Guidelines §15304):** Minor trenching, excavation, backfilling, utility installation, and restoration activities within previously disturbed areas where the surface is restored following construction.

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The project consists of replacing an existing domestic waterline serving Anna Jean Cummings County Park. The project includes installation of a new waterline within previously disturbed and developed portions of the park, connection to existing restroom and park facilities, installation of associated valves and service connections, abandonment of the existing waterline, limited pavement and sidewalk restoration, and restoration of disturbed areas following construction.

The replacement waterline will provide the same service and substantially the same capacity as the existing water system and does not involve an expansion of park facilities, utility service, or park operations. Construction activities are limited to trenching, utility installation, utility connections, pavement restoration, and site restoration within developed areas of the park. No tree removal is proposed.

None of the exceptions to categorical exemptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Signature: Britta Denise Hardesty _____ Date: 8 July 2026

Titled: Environmental Coordinator

Revised 7/8/2026

