

Application #: 261029
APN: No Situs
Owner: Multiple Agencies

44-03042026-020
017-26

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Division has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: 261029
Assessor Parcel Number: No situs address
Project Location: North Coast – See Project Description for site locations

CLERK OF THE BOARD
MAR 04 2026
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Project Description: Proposal to install signage prohibiting parking between 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. in the existing Panther Beach, Shark Fin Cove Beach, Davenport Beach, and Davenport Pier public parking areas. Requires a Coastal Development Permit and Minor Site Development Permit

Person or Agency Proposing Project: County of Santa Cruz

Contact Phone Number: Fernanda Dias Pini, (831) 454-3901

- A. _____ The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B. _____ The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C. _____ **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D. _____ **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
- E. X **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type: Section 15061(b)(3) – common sense
Section 15301(c) – existing facilities
Section 15308 – actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment

F. Reasons why the project is exempt:

The project qualifies for an exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14), Section 15061(b)(3), the “common sense” exemption, as it can be seen with certainty that no significant impact to the environment would occur. The project consists of the implementation of parking restrictions at existing paved and non-paved parking lots at four beaches along the North Coast between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., which would not result in physical changes to the environment, though installation of signs within existing paved and

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unpaved parking areas where other signage already exists would occur.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1 categorical exemption consists of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration to existing public or private structures that involve negligible or no expansion of existing uses. The project consists of the implementation of parking restrictions at existing paved and non-paved parking lots at four beaches along the North Coast between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., which require installation of new signage. New signage could be considered minor alterations to existing facilities. However, the project would result in a decrease in facility usage during specified hours and would not result in additional of new automobile lanes, parking spaces, or expansion of existing facilities.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, Class 8 categorical exemption consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. Past observations have revealed that Shark Fin Cove, Panther, Davenport, and Davenport Pier beaches experience the highest amount of degradation of all the beaches along the North Coast resulting in significant damage to natural resources, such as those associated with vandalism, trash accumulation, disposal of untreated human waste, and other illicit activities. The proposed parking restrictions would reduce deleterious impacts by implementing an enforcement mechanism in the target areas and constitute as regulatory action taken by the County to protect natural resources.

In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

DocuSigned by:
Mark Connolly Date: 2/26/2026
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Mark Connolly, Environmental Coordinator

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 3/4/2026
AND ENDING 4/9/2026