

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
 County of: Imperial

From: (Public Agency): California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Kane Spring Geotechnical Exploration Project

Project Applicant: California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Project Location - Specific:

The 3,206-acre site is along the SW shore of Salton Sea, approximately 2 miles E of Hwy 78, 3 miles east of Hwy 86, and 10 miles NW of Westmorland: 33° 08' 02.74"N Latitude, -115° 46' 15.50"W Longitude

Project Location - City: Westmorland Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The geotechnical site reconnaissance activities include temporary disturbance primarily in unvegetated areas for access routes, and up to 35 hand auger holes, 11 cone penetration tests (CPT), and 19 boreholes, with depth range of 20' to 100' for each. Up to six of the 20' holes will be converted to standpipes for groundwater evaluation. Geotechnical information will be used in the design and construction of a wetland enhancement project. Measures to avoid impacts include avoidance of sensitive habitat and aquatic features, and retaining on-site monitors for biological and cultural resources, and for Tribal resources during all field activities. Spoils from boring tests will be spread over unvegetated exposed lakebed. Boreholes will be refilled with natural material immediately after sample collection.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Natural Resources Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Natural Resources Agency

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The use of avoidance measures and on-site biological and cultural resources monitors (which may also include a Tribal monitor), during field activities would ensure no impacts to sensitive resources would occur, which is in compliance with CEQA Section 15300.2 (Exceptions). Therefore, the project is exempt under Section 15306 which allows for basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and which are undertaken for information gathering purposes.

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: Joe Shea Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 279-756-1474

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Joe Shea Date: 4/20/2026 Title: Assistant Secretary for salton sea Policy

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.