



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
(909) 484-0167
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
VALERIE TERMINI, Acting Director



To:
Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Desert Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite-C220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Scott Jakubowski
Email:
scott.jakubowski@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: 909-354-0919

Lead Agency (if different than CDFW)
Mojave Water Agency
13846 Conference Center Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307-4377
Contact: Melody Bailey
Email: mbailey@mojavewater.org
Phone: 760-946-7000

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023080428

Project Title: Oeste Basin Groundwater Recharge Project (Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit No. 1927-ITP-2024-069-06 (ITP))

Project Location (San Bernardino County): The Oeste Basin Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) is located within the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, approximately 0.4 miles west of Oasis Drive, within Assessor's Parcel Number 309-908-101 at approximately latitude 34.487°N and longitude - 117.621°W. The Project is bounded by the California Aqueduct to the south and Cayucos Drive to the north.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 1927-ITP-2024-069-06), pursuant to 1927.3 of the Fish and Game Code to the Mojave Water Agency (MWA).

The Project is comprised of the MWA constructing two recharge basins, each

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

1927-ITP-2024-069-06

January 7, 2026

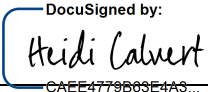
approximately 4.5 acres in size, on a 10-acre vacant parcel. The Project also includes installation of piping within a 0.03-acre area in the Department of Water Resources right-of-way. Approximately 80,409 cubic yards of soil will be excavated to form the basins.

The Project will result in incidental take of 201 western Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), which are protected under the WJTCA and the California Endangered Species Act. The WJTCA ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of western Joshua tree that may occur because of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the Project described above on January 7, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described Project:

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. A mitigated negative declaration was prepared by the lead agency for the original Project.
3. Additional mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the Project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this Project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this Project.
6. Findings **were not** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4: **A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.**

The mitigated negative declaration prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

Signature:  Date: 1/7/2026
Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager