

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Project Title: First Amendment to the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Guidelines and Protocols

Project Location: Statewide

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has adopted the first amendment to the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Guidelines and Protocols (Amended Relocation Guidelines) pursuant to Section 1927.3 of the Fish and Game Code.

In July 2024, CDFW adopted relocation guidelines and protocols to relocate western Joshua trees successfully. In May 2025, CDFW approved the Amended Relocation Guidelines. CDFW developed the Amended Relocation Guidelines based on the best available science, in consultation with desert native plant specialists, consistent with the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act. The Amended Relocation Guidelines discuss the circumstances in which CDFW would consider requiring relocation of one or more western Joshua trees as permit conditions in incidental take permits issued under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act. The Amended Relocation Guidelines also describe how and when western Joshua trees should be relocated in order to minimize impacts to populations, prevent habitat fragmentation, and preserve connectivity corridors for gene flow and pollinator migration.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Same as above

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: See attached

CDFW Contact Person: Andrew Kaiser, (916) 224-6469, ander.kaiser@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  _____ Date: 5/23/2025
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Ryan Mathis, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch Chief (Acting)

Date received for filing at OPR: _____