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*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation  
Since 1870*

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research at [CEQA Submit](#)

**Project Title:** Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Project Description:** The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan is intended to guide management actions that will conserve, restore, protect, and assist in the recovery of western Joshua tree and the habitat upon which it depends in California and comply with Section 1927 et seq., Fish and Game Code.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** California Fish and Game Commission (Commission)


**Person or Public Agency Carrying out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department)

**Exempt Status:** Statutory Exemption under Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

**Reasons why the project is exempt:** The Commission has determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. The Commission’s determination is supported by (1) The Commission’s June 4, 2025, initial determination as lead agency that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the Department’s Director’s June 6, 2025 concurrence with that Commission’s determination, which is available at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences). Both documents are attached as exhibits to this notice and more fully describe the reasons.

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Signature:   
Melissa A. Miller-Henson, Executive Director

Date: August 14, 2025

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_