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Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Amy Henderson

Project Title: Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring - Augmentation

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

Project occurs over the range of the western Joshua Tree.

Project Location – City: Various - Ridgecrest, Barstow, and Joshua Tree are within the study area

Project Location – County: Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

Augmentation to the Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring Grant to extend the Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition for an additional two years to facilitate the drafting of strategic plans and documents for effective conservation of the western Joshua tree, as well as increasing the number of monitoring plots by 100 to ensure a robust analysis suitable for identifying species trends in the future. The population monitoring study is designed to provide comprehensive baseline demographic data through long-term, range-wide monitoring to inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's western Joshua tree conservation plan, located within the range of the western Joshua tree on both private and public lands within Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025078-2023241.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- ☑ Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: 15306 and 15262
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

The Project involves planning for possible future actions which have not been approved, adopted, or funded and includes basic data collection and research which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

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, (by this notice) ☐ No

Signature: Signed by: Rebecca J. Fris 1EAD9B041E6D478... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 8/29/2025

☑ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

SCH #:
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR:

ec: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder