Docusign Envelope ID: 16CDD5A2-8707-4DB6-AA18-5E49E2EB29CC

Print Form

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: _____

From: (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
(Address)

Project Title: Washington Street Sand Removal Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Location - Specific:
West side of Washington Street (GPS:33°46.670' North, 116°18.071' West)

Project Location - City: Desert Palms Project Location - County: Riverside County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The County of Riverside Transportation Department is proposing to remove windblown sand from Washington Street that collects along the street, adjacent to residential and business developments, and removed from the Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve and will be deposited on the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge so the sand can drift back across the desert and enhance and preserve the windblown sand dune habitat within the Refuge.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Riverside Transportation Department

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: CCR Title 14 Section 15304 (g)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
See Attachment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Richard Kim Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760)518-1333

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: Docusigned by: Richard Kim 9DA5602712C84C1... Date: 10/20/2025 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Docusign Envelope ID: 16CDD5A2-8707-4DB6-AA18-5E49E2EB29CC

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

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

Washington Street Sand Removal Project

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through its Region 6, Lands South Program has taken final action to execute the Right of Entry permit between the State of California, CDFW and County of Riverside Transportation Department for the Washington Street Sand Removal project to remove windblown sand from Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve along Washington Street north of 38th Avenue (collectively, the Project). The sand removal shall occur within 12-20 feet from the chain link fence. It is removed from the Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve and will be redeposited on the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge so the sand can drift back across the desert and enhance and preserve the windblown sand dune habitat within the Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve. Once the sand is redeposited, a small bobcat is used to spread out the deposited sand so that the sand is then allowed to drift back on to the existing sand dune system. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), CDFW executes this Right of Entry permit relying on the categorical exemption for the Class 4 Categorical Exemption, respectively. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15304). The exemption as relevant to the Project is discussed below.

Class 4 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15304, the exemption for “Minor Alterations to Land”. Class 4, as relevant here, consists of minor public alterations to land and vegetation. The Project falls within the class because it involves minor public alteration to land on a designated ecological reserve and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The CEQA Guidelines provide the specific example of “maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies” at section 15304 (g) as being consistent with this class.