

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Native Plant Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Project Title: Western Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) Activities at Pioneertown Mountains Preserve (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place in San Bernardino County at Pioneertown Mountains Preserve (PMP) located at 51010 Pipes Canyon Road in Pioneertown. Planting activities will take place at PMP, and salvage activities will take place at project sites authorized for lawful take of western Joshua tree pursuant to an issued WJTCA incidental take permit, and/or sites approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Project Description: CDFW is issuing a California Endangered Species Act and Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 2081(a) and 1927.2(h) to The Wildlands Conservancy (Permit No. 2081(a)-25-011-RP) for a project to assist with the conservation and recovery of western Joshua tree. Project activities may include: (1) salvage, transport, receipt, temporary storage, and/or planting of western Joshua tree or any parts or products thereof for the purposes of restoration and long-term management at PMP; (2) maintenance of western Joshua tree, which may include supplemental irrigation, installing herbivory protection and stabilization equipment, and weed maintenance as necessary; and (3) trimming and disposal of diseased or dead western Joshua trees from the Project Location.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Timothy Krantz, Conservation Director, The Wildlands Conservancy

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15307, Class 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of management activities to ensure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of western Joshua tree populations. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure that restored populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

Signature:

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 10/23/2025

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____