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Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Permitting Program

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife | Contact Person: Karen Carpio

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944209 | Phone: (916) 720-1238

City: Sacramento | Zip: 94244-2090 | County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: 8 including Mono, Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino, Los Angeles | City/Nearest Community: various across 8 counties

Cross Streets: Various | Zip Code: Various

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 17 ′ 58.2612 ″ N / 117 ° 44 ′ 0.5568 ″ W | Total Acres: ~9,000,000-acre focus area

Assessor's Parcel No.: Various | Section: 30 | Twp.: 30S | Range: 40E | Base: SB

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Various | Waterways: Various

Airports: Various | Railways: Various | Schools: Various

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR | NEPA: ☐ NOI | Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR | ☐ EA | ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ | ☐ Draft EIS | ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Other: _____ | ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Incidental Take Permits

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Alteration, removal, and relocation of western Joshua trees

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☐ Recreation/Parks ☒ Vegetation
☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Water Quality
☐ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☐ Minerals ☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Noise ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Land Use
☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: Tribal Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Various in ~9,000,000-acre focus area

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is preparing a Program EIR and efficient project-level California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process that would provide a streamlined mechanism of CEQA compliance for property owners and land managers engaging in actions with potential to result in limited take of western Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia), as authorized under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA). The geographic focus area of take permit applications would be centered on the species' current range, plus an 8-kilometer buffer, which encompasses ~9,000,000 acres in portions of Mono, Inyo, Tulare, Kern, San Bernardino, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Riverside counties.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

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Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

____	Air Resources Board	____	Office of Historic Preservation
____	Boating & Waterways, Department of	____	Office of Public School Construction
____	California Emergency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of
____	California Highway Patrol	____	Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X	Caltrans District # 6-9	____	Public Utilities Commission
____	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	____	Regional WQCB # ____
X	Caltrans Planning	X	Resources Agency
____	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	____	Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
X	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	____	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
____	Coastal Commission	____	San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
____	Colorado River Board	____	San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of	____	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
____	Corrections, Department of	X	State Lands Commission
____	Delta Protection Commission	____	SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
____	Education, Department of	____	SWRCB: Water Quality
____	Energy Commission	____	SWRCB: Water Rights
____	Fish & Game Region # ____	____	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
____	Food & Agriculture, Department of	____	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
X	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	____	Water Resources, Department of
____	General Services, Department of		
____	Health Services, Department of	____	Other: ____
____	Housing & Community Development	____	Other: ____
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 18, 2025 Ending Date December 17, 2025

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Ascent, Inc.
Address: 530 Technology Drive, Suite 100
City/State/Zip: Irvine, CA 92618
Contact: Nicole Greenfield
Phone: (619) 489-5671

Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Address: P.O. Box 944209
City/State/Zip: Sacramento, CA, 94244-2090
Phone: (916) 720-1238

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 11/17/2025

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.