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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: Kim Cruz

Project Title: Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

038-300-10

Project Location – City:

Project Location – County: Inyo

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

To consider the acquisition of 40± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of critical desert habitats for the Inyo California towhee, Desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel, and to provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, as an expansion to CDFW's Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve located 30 miles northeast of the city of Ridgecrest in Inyo County. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025052.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: John P. Walsh, 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:
- ☑ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: Public Resources Code 21080.28
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project involves the acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John P. Walsh

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 539-8016

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: DocuSigned by: John Walsh 3286244C820F47D... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 11/24/2025

☑ 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