

**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:** Hayley Pechner

**Project Title:** San Diego Cactus Scrub Restoration

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**

Located on the Sweetwater Reservoir sublocation of the San Miguel Mountain Management Area, located on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, 32.690833, -116.976667

**Project Location – City:** Four miles southeast of Lemon Grove

**Project Location – County:** San Diego

**CEQA Region:** S. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**

This project will remove invasive grasses and restore 56 new cactus patches across 139 acres. These plantings will reduce the distance between the existing patches created by earlier restoration efforts, thereby improving habitat connectivity and supporting up to 10 additional Coastal Cactus Wren breeding territories. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025113.

**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: 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

Project would involve minimal disturbance to public lands, and will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**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:** DocuSigned by: John Walsh for Rebecca Fris **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 3/2/2026

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