

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: Don Cocker

Project Title: I-15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

Latitude: 33.455901

Longitude: -117.135519

Project Location – City: 1.5 miles south of the City of Temecula

Project Location – County: Riverside

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

Developing shovel-ready plans and designs needed to construct a vegetated overpass across Interstate 15 that will benefit the mountain lion subpopulation in the Santa Ana Mountains, which is currently experiencing genetic restriction resulting in disease and mortality due to the barrier effects caused by the roadway. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025143.

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:
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies
- Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.

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: