

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Riverside
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

From: (Public Agency): Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219
Palm Desert, CA 92211

(Address)

Project Title: Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions at Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve

Project Applicant: Center for Natural Lands Management

Project Location - Specific:

Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve at 29200 Thousand Palms Canyon Road, Thousand Palms, CA

Project Location - City: Thousand Palms Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions at Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve project consists of hydrologic monitoring and data collection activities intended to improve understanding of groundwater-surface water interactions supporting Simone Pond and associated groundwater-dependent ecosystems within Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve. Activities include installation of monitoring equipment and shallow groundwater monitoring wells, water-quality sampling, and related monitoring activities to support conservation and management of groundwater-dependent resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Center for Natural Lands Management and USGS

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15306, 15304, 15301, and 15333
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project does not involve unusual circumstances that would create the potential for significant environmental effects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15300.2. The proposed activities are limited in scope and spatial extent and consist primarily of information collection and monitoring activities, including minor alterations associated with installation of monitoring equipment and shallow groundwater monitoring wells. Therefore, the project qualifies for categorical exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §§15306, 15304, 15301, and 15333 because it involves information collection activities, minor alterations to land, activities associated with existing natural features and facilities, and habitat protection activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Elizabeth King Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 776-5026

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 No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 5/21/2026 Title: Executive Director

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____