



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor  
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

**To:**  
Office of Land Use and Climate  
Innovation  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220  
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Lead Agency (if different than CDFW)  
Snowline Joint Unified School District  
4075 Nielson Road  
Phelan, CA 92372  
Contact: Robert Chacon, Assistant  
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Phone: (760) 868-5817

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**Project Title:** Baldy Mesa Elementary School Modernization Project (Project) (Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit No. 1927-ITP-2026-022-06 (ITP))

**Project Location (San Bernardino County):** The Project is located at the Baldy Mesa Elementary School at 10376 Baldy Mesa Road in the unincorporated area of Phelan, San Bernardino County, California. The Project is bounded by Bonanza Road to the north, Avenal Street to the south, Arrowhead Road to the west, and Baldy Mesa Road to the east.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 1927-ITP-2026-022-06), pursuant to Section 1927.3 of the Fish and Game Code to Snowline Joint Unified School District.

The Project includes upgrades to the Baldy Mesa Elementary School, including upgrades to the west parking lot and the installation of a new asphalt playground south of the west parking lot.

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The Project will result in incidental take of 9 western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), which is protected under the WJTCA and the California Endangered Species Act. The WJTCA ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of western Joshua tree that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Andrea Bilodeau  
Snowline Joint Unified School District  
Director of Facilities, Public Works, Warehouse, Reprographics  
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4075 Nielson Road  
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**Exempt Status:** On May 12, 2022, the Snowline Joint Unified School District, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15301. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether the Project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including Responsible Agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Steven Recinos, Environmental Scientist, (909) 731-5954, and [Steven.Recinos@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Recinos@wildlife.ca.gov)

Signature:  Date: 6/4/2026  
Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager