



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
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To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Lugo-Victorville Transmission Line Upgrade Project (Project) (Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit No. 1927-ITP-2025-071-06 (ITP))

Project Location ([county]): The Project is located in the City of Victorville in San Bernardino County at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Transmission Tower 2-2 and 4-1 at latitude 34.544638 and longitude -117.331219 (Tower 2-2) and latitude 34.524391 and longitude -117.345760 (Tower 4-1).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 1927-ITP-2025-071-06), pursuant to Section 1927.3 of the Fish and Game Code to LADWP.

The Project includes raising transmission towers Tower 2-2 and Tower 4-1 by an approximate 25 feet (ft). The Project will lift the transmission towers using staged cranes and boom lifts and place steel segments at the base of the towers. The Project will require a 50 ft by 50 ft work area to the east and west and a 100 ft by 50 ft work area to the north and south of each transmission tower.

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The Project will result in incidental take of two 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:

Eduardo Cuevas

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Environmental Supervisor

(213) 657-9249

Eduardo.Cuevas@ladwp.com

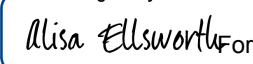
111 N. Hope Street, Room 1044

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Exempt Status: On November 16, 2021, the LADWP, 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

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Signature: _____ Date: _____
Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager