



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Enhancement Activities (Right of Entry Permit between California Department of Fish and Wildlife and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance).

Project Location (San Diego): The project will take place at the Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve, owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Restoration activities will occur throughout the property with final locations to be determined based on results of habitat assessments conducted throughout potential Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*; QCB) habitat.

Project Description: CDFW is in the process of executing a Right of Entry Permit to the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) for habitat enhancement and restoration activities on the CDFW-owned Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve.

Project activities include the installation of barbless wire fence, signage, and gates around a known habitat patch for QCB; collection and redistribution of host plant (*Plantago erecta*) and nectar plant (*Layia* spp., *Lasthenia* spp., etc.) seed; restoration of soil biocrusts; and non-native plant removals through herbicide application and manual treatments. Activities are anticipated to occur within the January 2025 Border 2 fire footprint, with the exact location to be finalized based on habitat assessments that will be completed by individuals with the requisite experience surveying for QCB and necessary state and federal permits. Restoration activities will occur outside of the active season for QCB, and survey work will be done in accordance with applicable state and federal permit requirements. Restoration sites will be accessed on foot using existing roads and trails and impacts to native vegetation will be avoided. No take of QCB is anticipated.

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August 7, 2026

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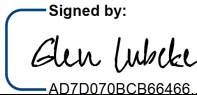
Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Paige Howorth
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
McKinney Family Curator of Invertebrates
(619) 557-3983
Phoworth@sdzwa.org
P.O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112

Exempt Status: CDFW, the Lead Agency, has determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 15304(d). Specifically, the Project involves a minor alteration of land that is designated for wildlife management and will result in improvements to fish and wildlife resources. 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.

CDFW Contact Person: Nicholas Aponte (Environmental Scientist), (858) 354-7020,
Nicholas.Aponte@wildlife.ca.gov

Signed by:  AD7D070BCB66466... Date: 8/7/2026
Signature: _____

Glen M. Lubcke, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: