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ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
West Mojave Habitat Restoration Project

Project Location (Specific)

The Project is located on selected sites throughout the West Mojave Desert Ecological Reserve in San Bernadino County, State of California. In general, the Project is located northeast of Kramer Junction (intersection of HWY 58 and 395) in portions of Township 11 North, Range 6 West San Bernardino Principal Meridian; Township 11 North, Range 5 West San Bernardino Principal Meridian; Township 32 South, Range 43 East Mount Diablo Principal Meridian; and Township 31 South, Range 42 East Mount Diablo Principal Meridian. It is mapped on the following 7.5 Minute USGS topographic quadrangles: Saddleback Mountain, The Buttes, Boron NE, Fremont Peak.

Project Description

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through its Inland Deserts Region Lands Program, has approved the West Mojave Desert ER Restoration Project for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) that includes habitat restoration activities in several locations within the West Mojave Desert Ecological Reserve (collectively, the Project). These activities include remediating unauthorized vehicle routes and cleaning up illegal dumping sites. CDFW approved the Project relying on the Class 4 and 33 Categorical Exemptions, respectively. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ section 15304 and section 15333.) Each exemption relevant to the Project is discussed below.

Class 4 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304, the exemption for "Minor Alterations to Land". Class 4, as relevant here, consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Project falls within the class because it involves the remediation of unauthorized roads and removal of dumped items on an officially designated ecological reserve that will result in improvement of wildlife habitat.

Class 33 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15333, the exemption for "Small Habitat Restoration Projects". Class 33, as relevant here, consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. The project falls within the class because it involves the restoration of less than five acres of wildlife habitat and does not violate any of the listed exceptions.