



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
wildlife.ca.gov

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

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Desert Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite-C220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Scott Jakubowski, Sr. ES
Email: scott.jakubowski@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: 909-354-0919

Lead Agency (if different than CDFW)
Mojave Water Agency
13846 Conference Center Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307-4377
Contact: Wesley Massoll, Principal
Hydrogeologist
Email: wmassoll@mojavewater.org
Phone: 760-946-7017

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2005041103

Project Title: Mojave Water Agency Victorville Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) (Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit No. 1927-ITP-2025-049-06 (ITP))

Project Location (San Bernardino County): The Mojave Water Agency Victorville Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) is located within the City of Victorville. The Project is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 15 at approximately latitude 34.4692126°N and longitude -117.4668536°W. The Project is bounded by the California Aqueduct to the south, Phelan Road to the north, Cactus Road to the East, and undeveloped land to the west (Project Site).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP

Wesley Massoll, Principal Hydrogeologist
Mojave Water Agency
March 5, 2026
Page 2

(No. 1927-ITP-2025-049-06), pursuant to Section 1927.3 of the Fish and Game Code to the Mojave Water Agency.


The Project is comprised of constructing a new groundwater recharge basin on 42.33 acres of undeveloped land, consisting of two recharge basins and their associated infrastructure. These basins will receive water from the California Aqueduct. The Project is designed to recharge up to 28,600 acre-feet of water per year using State Water Project water supplies. The Project will install six monitoring wells, two production wells, and about two miles of new pipelines connecting the wells to the Mojave River Pipeline or new alignments to the White Road siphon for recovery water delivery to the California Aqueduct.

The Project will result in incidental take of 618 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.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the Project described above on March 5, 2026, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described Project:

1. The Project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. An environmental impact report **was** prepared by the lead agency for the original Project.
3. Additional mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the Project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this Project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this Project.
6. Findings **were** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4: **A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.**

The environmental impact report prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

Signature:  Date: 3/5/2026
Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager