

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 Inland Deserts Region
 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
 Contact: Bryant Luu
 Phone: (760) 923-8666
 Email: bryant.luu@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency (if different than CDFW)
 Inyo County Public Works Department
 168 N. Edwards
 PO Drawer G
 Independence, CA 93526
 Contact: Kevin Rainbolt
 Phone: (760) 878-0210
 Email: krainbolt@inyocounty.us

From:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
 State Clearinghouse Number: 2018111016

Project Title: Walker Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project (Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit No. 1927-ITP-2024-081-06 (ITP))

Project Location: The Walker Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project (Project) is located on Walker Creek Road in Inyo County within the unincorporated community of Olancho, California. Walker Creek Road is a narrow, unpaved road on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains; the bridge spans the Los Angeles Aqueduct, approximately 0.5 mile west of the intersection of Walker Creek Road with U.S. Highway 385.

Project Description: This proposed project involves construction of a new bridge and the realignment of Walker Creek Road as it approaches the new bridge in either direction. The new bridge would be located approximately 375 feet southeast of the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be left in place and closed to public vehicle traffic after the new bridge and realigned roadway approaches are constructed. The purpose of the Project is to replace the old bridge with a new bridge that meets modern structural and safety codes and provides vehicle access between U.S. Highway 395 and destinations west of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

The Project will result in incidental take of 4 western Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) and avoid 3 western Joshua trees, 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 [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on the date signed below and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

Notice of Determination

1. The project [will / 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 / A mitigated negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures [were / were not] made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings [were / were not] made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
 - Payment is submitted with this notice.
 - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.
- Responsible Agency statement: The Mitigated Negative Declaration 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.

DocuSigned by:
 For
 Signature _____ Date: 2/24/2025
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Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager