NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Picacho Water Reservoir Fence

LOCATION: Picacho State Recreation Area  
COUNTY: Imperial

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This project will result in the enclosure of the existing water reservoir and water communication instruments to avoid vandalism to the park's portable water storage. The proposed fence is at Picacho State Recreation Area, by the entrance of the park and northwest of the group camp. The chain link fence will be constructed with 8' fence posts and will enclose approximately 2500 square feet. The fence posts will be set at a maximum depth of 24" into the ground at 6' to 10' intervals, depending on the hill slope. The manufactured chain-link gates for these new fences will provide 36" of clearance to conform to ADA guidelines. The holes will be dug with a 2-man auger or with a post-hole digger/shovel depending on soil surface. The fence material will be a 9-gauge galvanized chain link fence that is 6' tall with privacy aluminum slats.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Ocotillo Wells District

EXEMPT STATUS: 
☒ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☒ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))  
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section  )
☒ Categorical Exemption  
Class: 1  
Section: 15301

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project will result in minor addition to an existing structure and there is no potential for significant environmental impacts.

CONTACT: Sara Lockett  
Ocotillo Wells District

PHONE NO.: (760) 767-1320  
EMAIL: sara.lockett@parks.ca.gov

Steve Quartieri  
District Superintendent  
Ocotillo Wells District

MAY 11 2020

5/4/2020

DATE

### PROJECT CONCEPT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT TITLE</th>
<th>PARK UNIT NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picacho Water Reservoir Fence</td>
<td>Picacho SRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT NAME</td>
<td>FACILITY NO.</td>
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<td>Ocotillo Wells</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT MANAGER</th>
<th>PHONE NO.</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julio Baeza</td>
<td>760-554-8902</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julio.baeza@parks.ca.gov">julio.baeza@parks.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER</th>
<th>PHONE NO.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfredo Jacobo</td>
<td>760-767-1328</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alfredo.jacobo@parks.ca.gov">alfredo.jacobo@parks.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT BID DATE</th>
<th>CONSTRUCTION START DATE</th>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Water and Waste Water Funds</td>
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Identify the scope of the project in detail, including its purpose, location, and potential impacts. If the ground is to be disturbed, describe the depth and extent of excavation. Describe the existing site conditions, including previous development. Note if work will impact or extend beyond park property. Indicate if work will be done in conjunction with, or as part of, other projects. *(Use additional pages if necessary.)*

The purpose of this project is to enclose the water reservoir and the small solar panel with the water communication instruments to avoid vandalism to our portable water storage.

The proposed fence is at Picacho State Recreation Area, by the entrance of the park and northwest of the group camp. The chain link fence will be constructed with 8' fence posts and will enclose approximately 2,500 square feet. The posts will be set at a maximum depth of 24" into the ground at 6' to 10' intervals, depending on the slope of the hill. The manufactured chain-link gates for these new fences will provide 36" of clearance to conform to ADA guidelines. The holes will be dug with a 2-man power auger or with a post-hole digger and post-hole shovel depending on soil surface. The fence material will be a 9 gauge galvanized chain link fence that is 6' tall with privacy aluminum slats.

### DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- 7.5 minute (quad) map of project area *(Required)*
- Site Map *(Required - Scale should show relationship to existing buildings, roads, landscape features, etc.)*
- DPR 727 Accessibility Review and Comment Sheet *(Required - Attach DPR 727 or emailed project exemption from the Accessibility Section.)*
- Sea-level Rise Worksheet *(for coastal park units)*
- Graphics *(Specify - photos, diagrams, drawings, cross-sections, etc.)*
- Other *(Specify):*
**REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>IS AN APPLICATION, PERMIT, OR CONSULTATION REQUIRED?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Development Permit</td>
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<td>DFG Stream Alteration Permit</td>
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<td>State &amp; Federal Endangered Species Consultation</td>
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<td>Corps of Engineers 404 Permit</td>
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<td>RWQCB or NPDES Permit</td>
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<td>DPR Right to Enter or Temporary Use Permit</td>
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<td>PRC 5024 Review</td>
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<td>Stormwater Management Plan</td>
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<td>Encroachment Permit (Specify Agency)</td>
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<td>Native American Consultation</td>
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<td>Other (Specify)</td>
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**COMMENTS:**

**DEPARTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAS A GENERAL PLAN BEEN APPROVED FOR THE UNIT?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tr>
<td>If YES, is the project consistent with the GP?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If NO, what is the project justification?</td>
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<td>Is it a temporary facility? (No permanent resource commitment)</td>
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<td>Health and Safety?</td>
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<td>Is it a Resource Management Project?</td>
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<td>Is it repairing, replacing, or rehabilitating an existing facility?</td>
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<th>IS THE PROJECT WITHIN A CLASSIFIED SUBUNIT?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<th>IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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</table>

| IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS MANUAL CHAPTER 0300? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|

**COMMENTS:**

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT PROJECT CONCEPT APPROVAL OR DESIGNEE**

**TITLE**

**DATE** 12/18/19

### PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

**RESOURCES:**

*Explain all 'Yes' or 'Maybe' answers in the "Evaluation and Comments" section (reference by letter and number). Attach additional pages, if necessary.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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#### A. EARTH — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Create unstable soil or geologic conditions?
2. Adversely affect topographic features?
3. Adversely affect any unusual or significant geologic features?
4. Increase wind or water erosion?
5. Adversely affect sand deposition or erosion of a sand beach?
6. Expose people, property, or facilities to geologic hazards or hazardous waste?
7. Adversely affect any paleontological resource?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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#### B. AIR — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect general air quality or climatic patterns?
2. Introduce airborne pollutants that may affect plant or animal vigor or viability?
3. Increase levels of dust or smoke?
4. Adversely affect visibility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
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#### C. WATER — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Change or adversely affect movement in marine or fresh waters?
2. Change or adversely affect drainage patterns or sediment transportation rates?
3. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of groundwater?
4. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of surface waters?
5. Expose people or property to flood waters?
6. Adversely affect existing or potential aquatic habitat(s)?

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<th>YES</th>
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#### D. PLANT LIFE — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native plant community?
2. Adversely affect any unique, rare, endangered, or protected plant species?
3. Introduce a new species of plant to the area?
4. Adversely affect agricultural production?
5. Adversely affect the vigor or structure of any tree?
6. Encourage the growth or spread of alien (non-native) species?
7. Interfere with established fire management plans or practices?

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<thead>
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#### E. ANIMAL LIFE — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native or naturalized animal population?
2. Adversely affect any unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species?
3. Adversely affect any animal habitat?
4. Introduce or encourage the proliferation of any non-native species?

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<th>YES</th>
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#### F. CULTURAL RESOURCES — WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site, or tribal cultural resource?
2. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
3. Cause an adverse physical or aesthetic effect on an eligible or contributing building, structure, object, or cultural landscape?
4. Diminish the informational or research potential of a cultural resource?
5. Increase the potential for vandalism or looting?
6. Disturb any human remains?
7. Restrict access to a sacred site or inhibit the traditional religious practice of a Native American community?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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### G. AESTHETIC RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect a scenic vista or view?
2. Significantly increase noise levels?
3. Adversely affect the quality of the scenic resources in the immediate area or park-wide?
4. Create a visually offensive site?
5. Be incompatible with the park design established for this unit or diminish the intended sense of "a special park quality" for the visitor?

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<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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### H. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Be in a public use area?
2. Have an adverse effect on the quality of the intended visitor experience?
3. Have an adverse effect on the quality or quantity of existing or future recreational opportunities or facilities?
4. Have an adverse effect on the accessibility of recreational facilities (e.g., ADA requirements)?

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<th>YES</th>
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### I. SEA-LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME EVENTS (COASTAL UNITS ONLY):

1. Has this project been evaluated for potential impacts from sea-level rise, coastal storm surge, and other extreme events, using the Department’s Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Events Guidance Document or an equivalent process? Please attach the Sea-Level Rise Worksheet (provided in the guidance document) or other detailed evaluation.
2. Based on the evaluation described above, will the project be adversely impacted by frequent flooding or permanent inundation during its expected lifetime?

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<th>YES</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
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- Non-coastal unit

### EVALUATION AND COMMENTS

A4. Erosion, particularly from water, is currently impacting the hill that the water tank is on. The project is not anticipated to increase erosion.

A7. It is unknown what the paleontological potential is in the project area. The area has been previously disturbed and it is unlikely that paleontological resources would be impacted.

F1, 3, and 4. It is possible that unknown and/or subsurface cultural resources could be impacted by the project. An archaeological monitor will be present during ground-disturbing activities.

G3. The water tank is on top of a hill and the addition of a fence does slightly reduce the visual quality of the immediate area. This impact is anticipated to be less than significant.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY.

Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

**Findings:**
- ☑ No Impact
- ☐ Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
- ☐ Potential Significant Impact

**Explain**

The project will result in the installation of a small fence around an existing water tank facility. The project area has been previously disturbed and no known sensitive resources are present. No potential significant impacts are anticipated.

**SIGNATURE**

[Signature]

**PRINTED NAME**

Sara Lockett
TRIBAL LIAISON COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)
- Reviewer is Designated District/Service Center/Division Tribal Liaison or Designee
- NAHC Listed Tribe(s) contacted (attach correspondence record for contact and findings)
  - DN 2007-05 Tribal Consultation Only
  - AB52 Consultation Initiated

Findings:
- Project action does not have potential to affect "tribal cultural" resources (explain)
  Check more than one box if tribes provide differing responses, and describe all consultations below.
  - Tribe(s) did not respond
  - Tribe(s) approved project as written
  - Tribe(s) approved project with treatments or conditions
  - Tribe(s) and DPR unable to reach mutual agreement on project treatments or conditions

Explain
A Sacred Lands File Search was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission on 8/1/2019 and came back positive for the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation. Letters, phone calls, and an email were sent, but no response was received as of 4/14/2020. It is unknown from Parks documents if anything was previously located on the hill where the tank sits. A small hill top survey was conducted by A. Napier; no artifacts were found.
If previously undocumented or subsurface cultural resources are encountered during the project, work should stop within the immediate vicinity of the find until a DPR-qualified archaeologist can evaluate and implement avoidance or other appropriate treatment measures. If any changes are made to the scope or location of the project work, additional review by a cultural resources specialist will be necessary.

ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

Findings:
- No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
- PRC 5024 attached; project approved as written
- PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
- PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

Explain
There are no recorded sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project, although there is a possibility of subsurface deposits. A survey conducted by A. Napier on 6/6/2019 was completed without any findings. The work will take place on the top of a hill that has fairly regular traffic. If previously undocumented or subsurface cultural resources are encountered during the project, work should stop within the immediate vicinity of the find until a DPR-qualified archaeologist can evaluate and implement avoidance or other appropriate treatment measures. If any changes are made to the scope or location of the project work, additional review by a cultural resources specialist will be necessary. At the discretion of the District Archaeologist, a monitor may be needed for this project.
HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

Findings:

☑ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
☐ PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written
☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

Explain: There are no historical resources in the project area that would be affected by this undertaking.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

Findings:

☑ No Impact
☐ Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
☐ Potential Significant Impact

Explain:
The project area has been previously disturbed and is sparsely vegetated. Fence installation should attempt to avoid all vegetation. Work should be timed for outside of the California nesting bird season, generally defined as February 1-August 15. If work will occur during the California nesting bird season, a biological monitor should inspect the project area for nests no more than 7 days prior to work starting. If a nest is detected, either a buffer should be applied or the project should be rescheduled to avoid nesting birds. A biological monitor may be present during all construction, at the discretion of the District Environmental Scientist.

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MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

COMMENTS: I'm going to hire a contractor to install the perimeter fence in the water reservoir tank area, state park staff will need to monitor this project.

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**GIS SPECIALIST (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)**

**OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)**

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### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects at the park?
2. Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects?
3. Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to become operational?
4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project?
5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?

### COMMENTS:
It is unlikely that multiple projects would occur simultaneously at Picacho SRA due to current staffing levels, however it is possible that unrelated projects may be worked on during the same time frame. This project is independent of other projects, and other than routine maintenance, no future projects are anticipated. Picacho SRA does not have a General Plan.

### RECOMMENDATION:
- Not a project for the purposes of CEQA compliance.
- Project is covered activity under DOM 0600 (Figure F) that does not require a Notice of Exemption.
- Project is covered activity under previously prepared CEQA Document (internal or external); cite SCH number.
- The project is exempt. File a Notice of Exemption.
- A Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- A Mitigated Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- An EIR should be prepared.

- ❌ ABS2 Consultation Initiated. See Tribal Liaison Comment Section above.

### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW

I acknowledge any constraints placed on the project as a result of the specialists' comments above and recommend the project proceed.
Project: Picacho Water Reservoir Fence  
Design Entity: Ocotillo Wells District
Location: Picacho SRA  
Project Manager: Julio Baeza
Review Date: 12/5/19  
Reviewer: Peter Oliver, CASp-818
Project Phase: PEF  
Phone: 916-445-8769

This review and comment does not authorize any omissions or deviations from applicable regulations. The intent of this review is for general conformance with applicable parts of Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADASAD), California Code of Regulations Title 24 - access compliance, and the Department of Parks and Recreation’s (DPR) California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines (CSPAG). Plans were reviewed solely on the items submitted to the Accessibility Section as it relates to standards in design and construction of accessibility features for individuals with disabilities. All construction must comply with the Latest Editions of the California Building Code (CBC), California Mechanical Code (CMC), California Plumbing Code (CPC), California Electrical code (CEC), California Fire Code (CFC), current editions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and all other prevailing state and federal regulations.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Accessibility Section has completed review of the PEF and approves moving forward with the project. However the following items must be addressed:

- Verify that the enclosed area (water reservoir, solar panel, communication instruments) may be considered a “machinery space... frequented only by service personnel for maintenance, repair or occasional monitoring of equipment.”
  
  - If this definition applies, the project is not required to meet accessibility requirements and is exempt from access compliance review per CBC 11B-203.5.
  
  - If this definition does not apply, all pedestrian gates must comply with requirements of CBC 11B-404 including clear and level ground surfaces, accessible hardware height and operation, smooth surfaces at the bottom 10” of the gate, and other requirements.

Approval of this PEF does not authorize or approve any omission or deviation from applicable regulations. Final approval is subject to field inspection.

END OF COMMENTS
Bill, I need the measurement of the area where we are going to put the fence.