

**DATE FILED & POSTED**

Posted On: 08-05-2022

Removed On: 09-17-2022

Receipt No: 310-08052022-535

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

**To:** San Bernardino County and Office of Planning and Research  
 Clerk of the Board State Clearinghouse  
 385 North Arrowhead Avenue 1400 Tenth Street  
 San Bernardino, CA 92415 Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District  
 15415 W. Sand Street, #103  
 Victorville, CA 92392

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Mojave Desert Land Trust Palisades Ranch Restoration Project  
Project Title

<u>SCH#2022050328</u>	<u>Ms. Dana Raponi</u>	<u>760-843-6882, ext. 101</u>
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Telephone Number

**Project Location**

Palisades Ranch is located in San Bernardino County, California, approximately 25 miles southwest of Barstow, California. The nearest cross streets are Bryman Road and Heritage Road. It consists of ±1,647 acres (21 parcels), approximately ±3.5 miles along a north-south axis and ±1.25 miles wide on an east-west axis. The project site is located within the USGS Topo 7.5-minute map for Helendale, CA and the rough center of the 1,647-acre project site is located in Section 12, Township 6 North and Range 4 West. The approximate GPS coordinates of the project site are 34.47166, -117.34820.

The property forms an irregular shape and varies topographically from horizontal expanses to vertical cliffs. Steep, 80-foot bluffs separate the river channel in the eastern part of the property from the alluvial flats to the west. For the most part, the property sits vacant, unimproved, and unused. Approximately 820 acres of the project site lies in the Mojave River floodplain. This means approximately 820.80 acres lie outside a floodplain. A small portion of the property had been previously used to grow hay/alfalfa and as a fruit orchard. Neither of these uses are currently operational, and the fields lie fallow. The property includes four residences, two steel buildings, an office and apartment, two open sided hay barns, wells and water tanks, and miscellaneous improvements.

**Project Description**

The Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) intends to implement a conceptual restoration and design plan for Palisades Ranch that meets state and regional priorities to identify restoration measures for critical hydrological processes and habitat health. The objectives of the restoration plan were to improve riparian and aquatic habitats for special status species (including San Emigdio blue butterfly, Mojave tui chub, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, least Bell's vireo, and Lucy's warbler) while keeping in mind water allocation (groundwater/aquifer recharge, water conservation) and maintenance required for sustainable and successful restoration. Given that MDLT proposes to implement a habitat restoration plan within an area of conservation, Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District (MDRCD or District) has agreed to serve as the CEQA Lead Agency for this project.

The restoration plan involves reconnecting a 170-acre abandoned agricultural field that was historically riparian habitat to the Mojave River by reestablishing a nested floodplain that resembles historic floodplain conditions. This would entail constructing a 6,600-foot main side channel, a 1,425-foot west branch side channel, and two higher elevation 5-year return interval channels within the proposed nested floodplain in the abandoned agricultural field. This approach would restore the historic floodplain and braided channel form during annual high flows, promote natural recruitment of riparian vegetation and beaver colonization, and boost groundwater storage of the floodplain aquifer. Approximately 130 acres of riparian habitat would be restored as a result of this project. The design would also include a 2-acre pond that would provide habitat for Mojave tui chub. The design would not be hard engineering, rather the design would create a system that allows natural processes to take place, creating the greatest ecological benefit possible.

The Implementation of the proposed Palisades Ranch Restoration Project—which includes fence installation, habitat restoration, and installation of signage—is anticipated to require up to 5 years (60 months) with a target completion date of 3 years (36 months), with the anticipated start date of construction in October 2022. The project could be completed as early as October 2025, though it may be completed at the latest around October of 2027.

This is to advise that the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District has adopted the above described project on  Lead Agency  Responsible Agency

9/3/2022 and has made the following determination regarding the above described project:  
(Date)

2022 SEP 13 11:04 AM  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
CLERK OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS

**Notice of Determination, page 2 of 2**

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project
4. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan [ was  was not] adopted.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study and record of project approval is available to the general public at:

MDRCD Office at 15415 W. Sand Street, #103 Victorville, CA 92392, and electronically at the District's website:  
<https://www.mojavedesertgcd.org/palisades-ranch>

Dana Rapai District Manager 8/3/2022  
Signature Title Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**    **StartOver**    **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 36 — 08052022 — 535  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)  
 2022050328

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY <b>Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District</b>	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE <b>08052022</b>
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING <b>San Bernardino</b>	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE  
**Mojave Desert Land Trust Palisades Ranch Restoration Project**

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME <b>Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District</b>	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER <b>(760) 843-6882 x 101</b>
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS <b>1400 Tenth St.</b>	CITY <b>Sacramento</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>
		ZIP CODE <b>95814</b>

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency   
  School District   
 Other Special District   
 State Agency   
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,539.25	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,548.00	\$	<u>2,548.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,203.25	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	<u>50.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	<u>          </u>

PAYMENT METHOD: **#3159**

Cash   
 Credit   
 Check   
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 2,598.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE <b>Jessica Ruiz, Deputy Clerk</b>
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