



## 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 SRA Lower Dock and Entrance Post-Storm Repairs

**LOCATION:** Picacho SRA

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** On or around August 20, 2022, a monsoonal storm damaged portions of Picacho SRA, particularly near the park entrance and lower dock. This project will take actions to reestablish the park entrance trails, restore use of critical public safety infrastructure at the lower dock, and protect potable water supplies as the unit. The project consists of several elements: 1) the channel of the lower dock needs to be dredged and a portion of channel siding needs to be replaced as it has bowed, 2) adding fill and compacting areas around the lower dock that were eroded from the storm, 3) repairing an earthen berm that protects the park's water well, 4) adding a new minor diversion berm to further protect the park's water well, and 5) regrading established trail corridors (i.e., park entrance, trails, and access roads to housing units) that were washed out or damaged by storm flow.

**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:*

*Section:*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** The proposed action complies with CEQA because it is statutorily exempt under Section 15269(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, as it is due to repairs to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare. Due to the park's remote location and limited local emergency services, the lower dock is essential for emergency services access and response, as well as preventative public safety measures from State Parks. Additionally, critical infrastructure, including this portion of the park's only potable water supply, was jeopardized by the storm and work is needed to protect these facilities from future storms and repair damage.

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Ocotillo Wells District

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Steve Quartieri  
District Superintendent

Ocotillo Wells District

Sept 8, 2022

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DATE