



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: Notches Sign Stanchions

LOCATION: Ocotillo Wells SVRA

COUNTY: Imperial

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The purpose of this project is to upgrade the sign posts currently in use in the Notches area of Truckhaven within the Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The signs identify restricted activities for the area and, as such, are constantly being vandalized, run over, or just pulled from the ground using a vehicle. The current sign posts consist of steel U-channel that the signs are attached to. With the area being a high-use area, the rangers depend on the sign placement to be able to enforce the rules to the visiting public. Stouter posts, encased in the ground with concrete, should greatly eliminate any possibility of visitors pulling the signs out. A total of four anchor holes (one per sign) will need to be excavated to a maximum dimension of 2' x 2' x 2' to provide a substantial footprint for concrete to fill to anchor the signpost. Excavation to be performed by heavy equipment, such as a backhoe, or excavator, or if those are unavailable, then a gas-powered auger and hand tools will excavate the holes instead. Concrete will be placed in the holes by hand after mixing in concrete mixer onsite (water supply also brought onsite via water buffalo trailer) and filled to meet ground level. Spoils of native soil to be spread on site at the discretion of District Archaeologist. All signs of construction to be removed concurrent with the installation at each sign post location.

Measures to be implemented to avoid impact may be obtained by submitting a request to the Environmental Coordinator listed below.

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: 11

Section: 15311

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The proposed action complies with CEQA because it is: (1) categorically exempt under Class 11, Section 15311 of the CEQA Guidelines, Accessory Structures, as it involves the placement of minor structures (i.e., signs) accessory to existing facilities; and (2) there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions.

CONTACT: Sara Lockett
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Steve Quartieri
District Superintendent
Ocotillo Wells District

10/13/2022

DATE