

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
Bishop Field Office
787 N. Main Street, Suite 220
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Cartago Sampling

Project Location: The project will be located on the 218-acre Cartago Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area) in Inyo County, State of California; the Project is located in Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 37 East MDBM, USGS Olancho Quadrangle map.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) proposes to collect up to 20 soil boring samples with a small track-mounted auger at a former soda ash plant area and magnesium lime pile. Soil samples will be collected within 0 to 5 feet below ground surface. Drill sampling and staging will only occur in former industrial and disturbed areas on the property. The equipment will access the site from established roads. No material from the industrial site or magnesium lime pile will be moved onto other areas of the property. Drill samples are needed to better understand the composition of various materials left onsite from historical industrial uses of the property to inform future land management and habitat restoration work.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial:
- Declared Emergency:
- Emergency Project:
- Categorical Exemption: 14 CCR, Section 15304

Reasons why Project is exempt:

The project is *Class 4, §15304* (Minor Alterations to Land) Exempt; the Project is a minor alteration to the condition of land, water, and vegetation on an existing officially designated wildlife management area (Wildlife Area) which will result in the improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources and will not result in removal of mature, healthy, scenic trees.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Aaron Johnson, (760) 872-1171, Aaron.Johnson@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by:
Chris Hayes _____ **Date:** 10/31/2022
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 Chris Hayes, Environmental Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____