

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Native Plant Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Project Title: Western Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) Salvage Transport (Project), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Memorandum of Understanding No. 2081(a)-22-011-RP

Project Location: The Project will take place in Inyo County. Salvaged *Yucca brevifolia* will be translocated from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) North Haiwee Dam 2 (NHD2) project location (36.23131, -117.96705) to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (36.59694, -118.05611).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a Memorandum of Understanding to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to transport approximately one dozen *Yucca brevifolia* seedlings from the NHD2 project site to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation. LADWP holds authorization for incidental take, including salvage of up to 69 *Yucca brevifolia* plants at NHD2 through CDFW Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2017-073-06 Amendment No. 1. Translocation activities by the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe will serve to support *Yucca brevifolia* protection, management, and propagation activities. Only *Yucca brevifolia* plants lawfully taken pursuant to LADWP's ITP shall be transported pursuant to the MOU. Salvaged plants will be transported on November 11, 2022, from the NHD2 project site to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation for storage until they can be outplanted or propagated on federal tribal land.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Kathy Bancroft, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15307 Class 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of natural resource management activities to ensure protection of *Yucca brevifolia*. The Memorandum of Understanding issued for the project by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife includes measures to ensure that only *Yucca brevifolia* authorized for incidental take under LADWP's Incidental Take Permit are lawfully taken and that the project shall not cause any unnecessary impacts to *Yucca brevifolia* populations or the surrounding habitat.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 11/14/2022

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Date Received for filing at OPR: _____