

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Wildlife Conservation Board**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Amy Henderson

**Project Title:** Mohave Ground Squirrel Management Actions

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**

The Project will take place within the range of the Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) within approximately 1.7 million acres.

**Project Location – City:** Cities within the range include Boron, Ridgecrest, California City, and Randsburg

**Project Location – County:** Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino

**CEQA Region:** N. CA & S. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**

The Project will address the development of effective, standardized, and statistically rigorous detection and survey methods for Mohave ground squirrel (MGS). A comprehensive range-wide population monitoring program is necessary to provide critical information for MGS conservation and management. The Project will implement a 2-year pilot study of a novel sampling and modeling methodological combination to estimate MGS demographic parameters that are needed for conservation and management. Using the pilot study data, a long-term, range-wide monitoring program for MGS will be designed. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023086.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Acting Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: Section 15306 - Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

The long-term monitoring project consists of basic data collection and research which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**If filed by applicant:** 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.  
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** DocuSigned by:  
*Rebecca J. Fris*

**Title:** Acting Executive Director

**Date:** 8/25/2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

**SCH #:**  
**Posted Date:**  
**Date Received for Filing at OPR:**