

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: Desert Tortoise Conservation Innovations

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

0490-223-39, 0490-222-32, 0502-073-05, 0502-073-50, 0502-073-11, 0502-073-12, 0490-292-09, 0502-051-67, 0502-062-88, 0502-062-20, 0502-062-61, 0502-062-04, 0502-062-69.

Project Location – City: 6 miles east of Boron, CA

Project Location – County: San Bernardino

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

This Project proposes to conduct a scientific study to address the underlying threats facing the desert tortoise using a wide array of newly available tools in a coordinated manner. This Project will simultaneously address three threats: raven predation, invasive plant displacement of native food plants, and severe, persistent drought. The goals of the Project include the following: (1) Use a broad range of tortoise conservation tools and techniques to enhance tortoise survival at known tortoise hotspots; (2) operate on a regional basis to reduce predator pressure by eliminating subsidies, discouraging reproduction of ravens and hazing them at roosts and other gathering points; (3) monitor with a scientifically-valid approach tortoise status and changes in raven numbers and movement patterns in the study area over multiple years; (4) study "hotspot" conditions in more detail to inform refinement of management actions and to better predict other areas for acquisition or targeted conservation actions, especially in light of expected changes driven by climate change; (5) share tools, techniques, and results with broader conservation community; (6) ensure maximum use of the data gathered and lessons learned by coordinating our actions with relevant federal and state agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mojave National Preserve; and (7) integrating technological advances over the course of the Project. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023178.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy 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 15303, Section 15304, and Section 15306
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

This study consists of basic data collection and research which does not result in 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: 

Title: Deputy Executive Director

Date: 11/16/2023

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: