

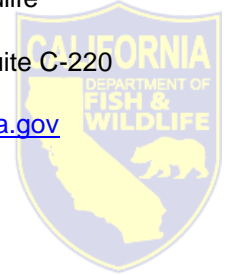
Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
R6LSAReporting@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Maintenance of the San Felipe Creek for the Elmore Desert Ranch (Notification of Lake and Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-IMP-35221-R6).

Project Location (Imperial County): The project is located in the San Felipe Creek, east of highway 78/86 and Elmore Ranch Road. The site is in Imperial County, State of California; Latitude 33.14700, Longitude -115.83600; APNs: 019-010-016, -017, -021, and -023.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-IMP-35221-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Southern California Edison.

The project is limited to the annual remove of tamarisk from the bed of the San Felipe Creek where it is growing adjacent to the Elmore Desert Ranch over the term of the Agreement. Phasing will take place annually over 5 years, starting at the north of the Project area and working towards the south. Approximately 100 tamarisks greater than 2 inches in diameter at breast height or mature trees are expected to be removed over the term of the Agreement. Removal techniques may include mechanical removal including hand equipment, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, and/or graders. Use of herbicides in San Felipe Creek is not an authorized project activity under this Agreement.

Project activities described above are anticipated to temporarily impact 11.94 acres and permanently impact 7.04 acres (31,000 linear feet) of resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Desert Ranch Maintenance Corporation

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
 Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: Class 7, section 15307; The project is exempt because it proposes routine vegetation removal to restore and enhance the natural environment from being overrun by nonnative tamarisk vegetation.

CDFW Contact Person: Alyssa Hockaday (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)), 760-920-8252, Alyssa.hockaday@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____ Date: 11/30/2023

Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____