

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764

County Clerk
County of:

(Address)

Project Title: King Clone Ecological Reserve Fencing Replacement

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Deserts Region 6 (CDFW)

Project Location - Specific:
King Clone Ecological Reserve

Project Location - City: Lucerne Valley Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The King Clone Ecological Reserve (KCER) was purchased by CDFW to protect the ancient creosote rings (Larrea tridentata) found on the property. One of these creosote rings, the King Clone, is the largest known creosote ring and has been identified as the world's oldest living organism, estimated to be approximately 11,700 years old. The Johnson Valley Off-highway-vehicle (OHV) Area is a popular location for OHV recreation in the area. It is adjacent to KCER and is a potential source of illegal OHV trespass onto KCER. Smoothwire fencing was installed at the property and sections of this fencing were cut and illegally removed. The project involves the replacement of the smoothwire fencing with pipe fencing, which is more secure and difficult to breach. The prevention of illegal OHV trespass at KCER will help with the protection of important resources, such as the ancient creosote rings and desert tortoise habitat.

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

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

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15302, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15303, subds. (e)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The replacement of existing structures is exempt under Class 2 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15302), which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures. This project involves the replacement of smoothwire fencing that exists at the King Clone Ecological Reserve (KCER) and the new fencing will be located at the same site and have the same purpose (prevent vehicular access) as the fencing that it will replace. Additionally, the project is exempt under Class 3 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15303, subds. (e) which allows for the construction of small accessory structures, such as fencing.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Chris Hayes Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 760/922/6508

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 No

Signature: Chris Hayes Date: 2/22/2024 Title: Environmental Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.