

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-221
Ontario, CA 91764
R6CESA@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Glen Helen Parkway Grade Separation Phase II Project - Bridge Over Cajon Wash (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-060-06 (ITP) Amendment 1)

Project Location (San Bernardino County): The Glen Helen Parkway Grade Separation Phase II Project - Bridge Over Cajon Wash (Project) is located at the Glen Helen Parkway Bridge over the Cajon Wash, within unincorporated Devore, San Bernardino County, latitude: 34.213655, longitude: -117.404201; within U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Devore 7.5 quadrangle, Section 33, Township 2 North, Range 5 West.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has amended California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-060-06, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq. to County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works.

This proposed Project involves replacing the Glen Helen Parkway roadway with a cast-in-place pre-stressed concrete box girder superstructure for Phase II of the Glen Helen Railroad grade separation project for the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad lines. The bridge will be widened to accommodate a total maximum width of approximately 94 feet. Twenty cast-in-drilled hole concrete pilings will be constructed to support the bridge structure (approximately sixteen within the wash and four adjacent to the eastern bank of the wash) and driven steel piles will be used to support the western abutment. Rock slope protection will be placed at the bridge abutments for scour protection.

The Project will result in impacts to 4.46 acres of San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) habitat including temporary impacts to 4.31 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.15 acres of San Bernardino kangaroo rat habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of San Bernardino kangaroo rat, which are designated as endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This amendment to the ITP includes updates to the Permittee Principal Officer, timing of the funding security for the preservation and management of the Habitat Mitigation Lands, submittal timelines for plans associated with take minimization and clarifications to take minimization measures.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption. (Cal. Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.13; CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15282, subd. (g).)

Reasons why project is exempt: Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the statutory exemption for railroad grade separation projects.

CDFW Contact Person: Lisa Cardoso (Environmental Scientist), (805) 712-0346, Lisa.Cardoso@Wildlife.ca.gov.

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DocuSigned by:

Heidi Calvert

Signature: _____

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Date: _____

7/23/2024

Heidi Calvert, *Regional Manager*



Date received for filing at OPR: _____