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State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Artifact Repatriation

LOCATION: Ocotillo Wells SVRA

COUNTY: Imperial

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project would repatriate four individual artifacts to two separate archaeological sites – one within Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, and one on a California State Lands Commission owned parcel – as determined through consultation with multiple local Native American tribes. The artifacts will be shallowly buried to increase their protection. Hand tools will be used to dig one hole at each site, approximately 2' diameter by 14" deep. Tribal representatives will be present during all stages of artifact repatriation and will have final approval of location burial within the site boundaries. Site access will be on foot. District standard project requirements have been incorporated into the project design.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Ocotillo Wells District

EXEMPT STATUS:
☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ Categorical Exemption
Class: 4 *Section:* 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The proposed action complies with CEQA because it is: (1) categorically exempt under Class 4, Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, Minor Alterations to Land, as it involves minor alterations to the condition of land without the removal of trees; and (2) there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions.

CONTACT: Sara Lockett
Ocotillo Wells District

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DocuSigned by:
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Enrique Arroyo
District Superintendent
Ocotillo Wells District

8/15/2024
DATE