



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: Heber Dunes Tamarisk Removal

LOCATION: Heber Dunes SVRA

COUNTY: Imperial

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This project aims to eradicate 5 acres of invasive salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) within the Native Vegetation Management Unit (MU) at Heber Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). Situated in the southern portion of Heber Dunes SVRA, the Native Vegetation MU houses the highest quality of native vegetation habitat. The removal of over 100 tamarisk shrubs and trees within the MU will be conducted using loppers, saws, and the application of herbicide by a certified applicator. The biomass from the removed tamarisks will be dried for several months before burning, if permitted. If burning cannot take place, the dried tamarisk may be placed in a dumpster and taken to a landfill. Once the herbicide has degraded, native vegetation seeds collected from Heber Dunes SVRA will be scattered in the treated area. In suitable locations, native vegetation may be planted in holes that are approximately 1' diameter by 3' deep; approximately 50 holes are anticipated. Removal of salt cedar was identified as a management objective in the 2022 Heber Dunes SVRA Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan. District standard project requirements have been incorporated into the project design, as attached

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: 33 Section: 15333

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The proposed action complies with CEQA because it is: (1) categorically exempt under Class 33, Section 15333 of the CEQA Guidelines, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as it involves restoration of plant and wildlife habitat that does not exceed five acres; and (2) there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions.

CONTACT: Sara Lockett
Ocotillo Wells District

PHONE NO.: (760) 767-1084
EMAIL: sara.lockett@parks.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Enrique Arroyo
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Enrique Arroyo
District Superintendent
Ocotillo Wells District

11/19/2024

DATE