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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: Mystery Hole Fill-In at Hidden Valley

LOCATION: Ocotillo Wells SVRA

COUNTY: Imperial

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: To the west of Cahuilla Trail and north of the Hidden Valley Campground, a 3-4 foot deep hole of unknown origin was discovered. The hole is surrounded by piles of compacted native soil, wooden stakes, and a set of mailboxes mounted to a 4x4 post and buried in the soil. The hole is approximately 3-4 feet in depth and approximately 10 feet in diameter, and poses a hazard to the unbeknownst visitor riding through the area. The project will decompact soils and restore a natural appearance to the area with heavy equipment and hand tools. District standard project requirements have been incorporated into the project description, see 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: 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 filling previously excavated land with materials compatible with natural features; and (2) there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions.

CONTACT: Sara Lockett
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DocuSigned by:
Enrique Arroyo
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Enrique Arroyo
District Superintendent
Ocotillo Wells District

2/20/2025
DATE