

**Notice of Exemption**

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
Native Plant Program  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**Project Title:** Western Joshua Tree Hazard Management Permit Program

**Project Location:** The Western Joshua Tree Hazard Management Permit Program issues hazard management permits for specified types of take of western Joshua tree throughout its range. The range of western Joshua tree includes part or all of the following counties: Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Ventura, Riverside, Tulare, San Bernardino.

**Project Description:** Pursuant to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (Fish & G. Code, § 1927.4), CDFW is authorized to issue permits (hazard management permits) to take dead western Joshua trees and to trim living western Joshua trees if the western Joshua tree in question: (1) has fallen over and is within 30 feet of a structure; (2) is leaning against an existing structure; or (3) creates an imminent threat to public health or safety. CDFW typically issues hazard management permits for the take of 1-5 western Joshua trees. The most common scenarios for the issuance of hazard management permits are for: (1) removal of dead and detached trees; (2) removal of dead and detached limbs; (3) trimming living trees; (4) trimming and removing dead and attached trees; and (5) removing dead and detached crowns and trimming and removing dead and attached trunks. CDFW issues several hundred hazard management permits annually.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife and its Permittees

**Exempt Status:**

- Emergency Project. Type and section number: Section 15269(b)
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15301, Class 1, and Section 15304, Class 4

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping and maintenance of native growth and minor private alterations in the condition of land or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Mika Samoy

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 531-8347

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 3/25/2025

DocuSigned by:  
  
36A908313DB6442  
 Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_