

# Notice of Exemption

# Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region Bishop Field Office  
787 N Main St, Suite 220 Bishop, CA 93514

(Address)

Project Title: Tecopa Ecological Reserve Habitat Protection Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Location - Specific:

Tecopa Ecological Reserve, Tecopa, CA.

Project Location - City: Tecopa, CA Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") will construct post and cable fence at Tecopa Ecological Reserve (Property) to prevent vehicle trespass impacts on listed species. See attachment for further description.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 14 CCR, Section 15304 and 15333
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

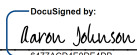
Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Aaron Johnson, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 872-1171

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 4/1/2025 Title: Sr. Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Inland Deserts Region  
Bishop Field Office  
787 N. Main Street, Suite 220  
Bishop, CA 93514  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



## Attachment to Notice of Exemption

### Tecopa Ecological Reserve Habitat Protection Project

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) proposes to construct post and cable fence at Tecopa Ecological Reserve (Property) to prevent vehicle trespass impacts on listed species. The proposed fence will result in approximately 3 miles of new fencing. The fence will protect listed plant and animal species from vehicle trespass by blocking access from adjacent roads and will reduce wildfire risk on the property. Unauthorized vehicle trespass poses a significant threat to the Federal and State Endangered plant, Amargosa niterwort (*Nitrophila mohavensis*), which occurs in multiple populations on the property. Vehicle trespass and camping pose a wildfire risk to Tecopa marsh, which provides habitat for the Federal and State Endangered Amargosa vole (*Microtus californicus scirpensis*). The vehicle exclusion fence will help safeguard the remaining Amargosa vole and Amargosa niterwort habitat while maintaining pedestrian access. Fencing will occur outside of niterwort and vole populations. CDFW approved the project relying on the Class 4 and Class 33 Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines, 15304 and 15333.) Each exemption as relevant to the Project is discussed below.

**Reasons why Project is exempt:** The project is *Class 4, §15304* (Minor Alterations to Land) Exempt; the Project will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation on an officially designated Ecological Reserve that will result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources. The proposed project meets the requirements of this exemption; therefore, no further CEQA review is required.

The project is *Class 33 § 15333* (Small Habitat Restoration Projects) Exempt; the Project will assure the protection of habitat for wildlife and plant species and will not exceed five acres in size. The proposed project meets the requirements of this exemption; therefore, no further CEQA review is required.

Review by CDFW staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resource, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the CDFW is kept on file at the Bishop Field office.