NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942596
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Excavation of Possible Gomphothere Bones (ABDSP 205)

LOCATION: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
COUNTY: San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This project encompasses the excavation and recovery of vertebrate fossils (site ABDSP Field Number PSM104). The site is located in the Hueso Formation in the Vallecito Badlands near the road into Arroyo Tapia. The site is spread over a SE facing dip-slope bordered by a low ridge on its eastern edge. The fossil remains are presently exposed in at least two places within an approximately 60x100 ft area. Proper exploration and fossil recovery may necessitate the removal of a few cubic meters of sediment. Several square meters of surface may be disturbed—based on what has been observed. Likely depth of the excavation will be about 0.3 m. The sediments that will be displaced during excavation (coarse to fine, poorly-sorted sand and gravel, as well as flat sandstone cobbles) will remain at the site. With minimal re-contouring, the site after excavation will look essentially the same as it did before. Very few plants, and no medium-to-large plants (creosote bush, ocotillo, cacti) will be impacted by excavation.

Project conditions to avoid and/or minimize environmental impact shall be incorporated into this project. A copy of these requirements may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Colorado Desert District

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

Class: 6
Section: 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.2. If the project is implemented as indicated within the project description including comments provided by CDPR specialists, then it is exempt under:

The Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as: "Archaeological investigations by Department Staff." (Class 6, Section 15306).

CONTACT: Terry Gerson
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Colorado Desert District

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Gina Moran, District Superintendent
Colorado Desert District

DATE: JANUARY 29, 2019