



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 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: OW Control Plots

LOCATION: Ocotillo Wells SVRA

COUNTY: Imperial & San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The purpose of this project is to establish nine (9) permanent sample site locations within Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) to augment the parks existing Habitat Monitoring Program (HMP). The HMP was created to address Public Resources Code 5090.35, which mandates the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division to monitor the health of wildlife and habitat within each SVRA. Each of the proposed sample sites will be a one-thousand square foot rectangle (1000ft x 1000ft) and will be chosen from a randomly generated, array of twenty seven (27) potential locations at the discretion of park staff. Two of the proposed sampling locations that are selected will act as control sites and be enclosed with a one-hundred and fifty square meter fence (150m x150m) to prevent any vehicular traffic within the site. Surveys will be conducted annually at each site for vegetation, small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Surveys methods and techniques will be selected based on approved protocols by State and Federal DFW and from published scientific studies. Four holes large enough to house five gallon plastic buckets will be excavated at each sample site to construct the pitfall trap arrays. Fencing will consist of metal t-posts, metal field fencing with reflectors, and wooden peeler core supports. All survey equipment will be removed when surveys are not being conducted, except pitfall trap arrays which will be sealed and closed when not in use. Sample sites will be accessed by lawful designated roads/trails or on foot. Archeological monitors will be present at the time of digging for both the pitfall traps and protective fencing.

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: 6

Section: 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: All project activities including site selection, fencing construction, survey actions and equipment are conducted with the intention for basic data collection and resource evaluation. No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2.

CONTACT: Tina Robinson
District Environmental Coordinator
Ocotillo Wells District

PHONE NO.: (760) 767-1302
EMAIL: Tina.Robinson@parks.ca.gov



Rick LeFlore
Environmental Program Manager I, R.A.
CA State Parks, OHMVR Division

6/3/14

DATE

