



**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:** Research Weather Stations in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP 157)

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** This weather station project is managed by the University of California Irvine, Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in cooperation with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and will measure a range of environmental characteristics with the use of 3 remote automated stations over a 1,300 meter elevation range spanning the mountains and valleys within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Borrego Springs. The data collected will study the interactions and dynamics between water and ecosystems and will serve numerous functions including, but not limited to, supporting research capacity, education and community outreach. Measurements will be conducted at 3 sites in the Park using tripods 6 foot in diameter, no higher than 10 feet tall. Soil sensors will be located in the ground within an 8 feet circumference of the center of the tripod and placed to not disturb vegetation. The sites would be located away from regularly used trails and camping areas. The research will be temporary and will include minimal subsurface disturbance. All hardware will be brought in vehicles using established roads as much as possible before being moved on foot to the measurement sites. Minimal subsurface impacts are anticipated.

Measures to be implemented to avoid significant impact 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: 4 and 6                      Section: 15304 and 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 CEQA §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land and §15306 Information Collection. The action falls under the Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as:

- "Resource management projects" (Class 4, Section 15304)
- "Resource studies, inventories" (Class 6, Section 15306).

**CONTACT:** Terry Gerson  
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Colorado Desert District

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Norb Ruhmke, District Superintendent Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
Colorado Desert District

JUN 28 2016

June 28, 2016  
DATE

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE