



**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Colorado Desert District  
200 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-5005

**PROJECT TITLE:** Invasive Plant Removal Carrizo Creek Watershed – Phase II

**LOCATION:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Hwy. S-2 and Indian Gorge Road

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Work will include eradication of invasive nonnative tamarisk in order to restore riparian habitat within the Carrizo Creek Watershed located within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The project is to eradicate invasive tamarisk in the portions of the watershed that have not previously been treated (Phase I), with the exception of Carrizo Marsh (Phase III). Any Phase III work in Carrizo Marsh would require future evaluation under CEQA. Restoration of the Carrizo Creek Watershed is critical to desert wildlife and federally endangered species such as Peninsular bighorn sheep and least Bell's vireo. The eradication of tamarisk will entail the use of chainsaws and herbicide application to ensure maximum mortality and the prevention of regeneration. Heavy equipment may be used in limited areas near existing roads. A helicopter may be used to ferry materials, supplies, and personnel into and out of remote locations. Post-treatment pile burning of dead tamarisk may also occur in some areas to eliminate the biomass. Piles will be moved a safe distance away from native vegetation to avoid impacts from fire. Crews will burn piles in place under safe burning conditions.

The Colorado Desert District will attempt to work cooperatively with adjoining landowners to remove tamarisk throughout the entire drainage of Carrizo Creek. If cooperation occurs on lands under federal ownership, NEPA would be completed at that time.

DPR-approved standard project requirements have been 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:**  Categorical Exemption      *Class: 4      Section: 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2. Project consists of minor public alterations in the condition of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is listed as "Resource management projects" and "Prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" in the Department's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

**CONTACT:** James C. Dice  
Colorado Desert District

**PHONE NO.:** (760) 767-4037

**EMAIL:** jdice@parks.ca.gov

Gail Sevrens, District Superintendent, Acting

11/8/11

DATE

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 11/08/2011 11:46  
NAME : DPR COLORADO DESERT\_  
FAX : 7607673427  
TEL : 7607674037  
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