



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

2019100520

Notice of Exemption

Table with 2 columns: To: Office of Planning and Research, P.O. Box 3044, Room 113, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044; From: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Project Title: Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area – Event Center Creosote Bush Fence

Project Location – Specific: Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA)

Project Location – City: near Borrego Springs

Project Location – County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: This project consists of installing split rail fencing and interpretive signs around a single creosote bush adjacent to the Main Street event center. Although there are regulations that make it illegal for visitors to damage vegetation, additional protective measures are sometimes needed. This particular creosote bush shows signs of infringement and "donut circles" caused by OHV activity on and around the base of the plant. This continued activity can cause plant mortality to this specific creosote. Creosote shrubs are helpful in trapping dust and creating dunes, they are also habitat for animals as both food and shelter. By implementing a physical barrier, similar to the split rail fencing found throughout the park, and including an interpretive message with graphics, we will be able to sustain these plants and provide an education message that applies to the rest of the park. The fencing will be approximately 8 ft. by 8 ft., encompassing a 64 square foot area to allow this creosote to recover and flourish. Four fence posts and 8 rail will be used to make this fence. The fence posts will require individual 1 ft. by 2 ft. holes to be dug by hand tools. An archeologist may be needed to monitor the digging. The interpretive message will be displayed on a single pedestal display, about 20 in. by 20 in., and follow the 2015 California State Park Accessibility Guideline. A hole no deeper and wider than 3 ft. by 3 ft. will be dug by hand tools and may have a concrete base.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ocotillo Wells District

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption – 15311, Placement of minor accessory

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt because it falls within the CE class listed above. Proposed activities described above do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. A CEQA Project Evaluation Form for the project is on file at the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division office listed above.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Brian Robertson

Handwritten signature of Brian Robertson

Signature

OHMVR Division Chief

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

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Date:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE