



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

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

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 – Truckhaven Habitat Monitoring System Plots and Pitfall Array Installation

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 will expand the Habitat Monitoring System (HMS) plots into the Truckhaven area of Ocotillo Wells SVRA by adding three plots. At each plot, surveys for birds, reptiles, small mammals, and vegetation are planned to occur twice a year. Plots are 1000m x 1000m, all surveys will be centered around the center pitfall bucket. Pitfall arrays will be established for reptile surveys. Arrays will consist of seven five-gallon buckets. Around a center bucket, there will be three arms containing two buckets each. As the tops of the buckets will need to be flush with the ground, seven holes will need to be excavated using hand tools. Holes will be approximately 1.5 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. During reptile surveys, drift fencing (approximately 1 foot tall fine mesh) will be temporarily installed between the buckets. All equipment will be hand carried to the location. At the conclusion of the surveys, drift fencing will be removed and lids will be tightly placed on the pitfall buckets. At the discretion of the District Archaeologist, archaeological monitors will be present during bucket installation and may be present during maintenance of pitfall surveys.

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:

Jon M. O'Brien, Environmental Program Mgr.

Signature (handwritten)

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

(916) 204-0871

4/24/20

Date:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 05 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE