

**CEQA STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS (SERP) CONCURRENCE REQUEST**

Completion and submission of this form is voluntary. This form may be submitted to request concurrence from the Director of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

The Lead Agency may submit this signed form (pdf) and all attachments via the Department's [Environmental Permit Information Management System \(EPIMS\) Document Repository](#) or via email at restorationpermitting@wildlife.ca.gov.

1. LEAD AGENCY

Lead Agency Name:	California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)
Contact Person's Name:	Ken Kietzer
Street Address:	17801 Lake Perris Dr.
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Contact Person's Telephone:	(951) 453-4250
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2. PROJECT PROPONENT

☒ **Check Box and Skip to Number 3 if Same as Lead Agency**

Business/Agency/Organization:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Person's Name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Street Address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
City, State, Zip:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Person's Telephone:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Person's E-mail:	Click or tap here to enter text.

3. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name:	Wildwood Canyon Wildfire Resilience Project
B. County or Counties:	San Bernardino
C. Lat./Long. Coordinates:	34.026736, -116.994902
D. Estimated Project Start/End Dates:	October 2025 – December 2040

E. Provide a brief description of the future discretionary Project approval the Lead Agency is considering (see CEQA Guidelines sections 15352 and 15378) and an approximate date range for when the Lead Agency may make that approval if the Lead Agency obtains a SERP concurrence from CDFW.

The Lead Agency, State Parks, will directly carry out the project in partnership with CAL FIRE and the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District. State Parks has completed a Project Evaluation Form (PEF), an internal review process that examines and addresses potential impacts to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation



resources. This PEF was formally approved on September 3, 2025 and a Notice of Exemption has been drafted. If State Parks obtains a SERP concurrence from CDFW, the NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

F. Provide a brief description of the Project location, size, and funding sources. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The Wildwood Canyon Wildfire Resilience Project (Project) is located at the Wildwood Canyon State Park Unit (Park). The Park is owned and operated by California State Parks (State Parks) and encompasses 840 acres in the eastern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains in the City of Yucaipa. The Park is accessed via 12241 Canyon Dr. Yucaipa, CA 92399. The Park landscape area ranges from gently to steeply sloping topography and an elevation range of approximately 3,200–3,800 feet. It is bordered by residential uses to the south, private undeveloped property to the west, and a combination of private undeveloped and U.S. Forest Service property to the north and east. The Park features diverse grasslands, oak woodlands, chaparral, scrub oak chaparral, and coastal sage scrub vegetation communities. These vegetation communities support a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, some of which are special-status. The Park also contains historic ranches and homesteads and other cultural resources. The Project will be implemented and funded in partnership by State Parks Inland Empire District, the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD), and CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit (BDU). A number of maps detailing the project's location, proposed treatment areas, and vegetation communities are included in the attachments.

G. Provide a brief Project description, including any post-restoration work, operation and maintenance, or other related activities. Summarize the Project's expected environmental benefits (e.g., acres or stream-miles restored/enhanced, species benefitted, etc.). Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The Project would involve implementation of manual, mechanical, and prescribed burning (pile and broadcast burning) vegetation management treatments to reintroduce beneficial fire to the landscape and strategically reduce fuels with the goals of moderating future wildfire severity on approximately 161 acres of the 840-acre Park and restoring native fire-adapted plant communities. Proposed treatments include prescribed fire, prescribed fire with manual or mechanical site preparation, infrastructure protection via manual removal of vegetation, and manual treatment with mastication, chipper and/or pile burning with a prescribed fire. Herbicide application and reestablishment of natives via seeding or planting may occur to meet project objectives, as informed by post-treatment monitoring. The Project is designed to benefit Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate for Listing), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*, CESA Candidate for Listing), western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Proposed Candidate for Listing, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC)), Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.2), Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*, CRPR 1B.1), and various other special-status or otherwise sensitive plant and wildlife species known to, or with the potential to, occur at the Park. A prescription document detailing the various treatments has been attached.

H. CDFW recommends direct coordination with all interested California Native American tribes. Please provide a summary of the Lead Agency's engagement with tribes. Be careful not to include any sensitive or confidential information. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

When the project was initially developed, CAL FIRE was the proposed Lead Agency. As such, Native American notification was done in compliance with the "Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects" document, dated April 3, 2020 (CAL FIRE Cultural document). As per the CAL FIRE Cultural document, "The CAL FIRE Project Manager will notify, in writing, applicable Native Americans listed on the most current version of CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List (NACL). The purpose of this notification is to inform Tribes, local Native American groups, and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) about the proposed project,



and to invite their views and comments about the project. It also serves as an information gathering step. The CAL FIRE project manager will request information concerning the location of any archaeological or cultural sites that may be known within the project area. In response, the NAHC will complete a check of its Sacred Lands File.” The notification letter must include specific information including the location of the project, a project map on a USGS quad, a request for information concerning their knowledge of archaeological, historical, or other cultural resources within the project boundaries, and a request for a response within 30 days.

CAL FIRE’s Cultural Resource Review Procedures have been in use for decades and are recognized standards in the state. The procedures were developed by CAL FIRE Archaeologists for all projects for which CAL FIRE is the CEQA Lead Agency. From CAL FIRE’s public facing website ([Cultural Resource Management | CAL FIRE](#)):

“CAL FIRE, in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and members of California’s Tribal communities, has developed a Native American Contact List (NACL) to identify the appropriate Native American tribes and individuals to be contacted during the development and review of Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) and other types of CAL FIRE Projects. This list is available to Certified Cultural Resources Surveyors and CAL FIRE staff to initiate consultation procedures specified in California Forest Practice Rules (CFPRs) (14 CCR Sections 895.1, 929, 949, 969), state law (CEQA, PRC Section 21104), regulation (14 CCR Section 15064.5) and CAL FIRE policy (Native American Tribal Communities and Relations 5000) and procedure (Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects). Native American tribes or individuals wishing to be placed on this list must complete and submit the Application to be included on CAL FIRE NACL List. CAL FIRE will consult with the NAHC and respond in writing. Likewise, California Native American tribes or individuals wishing to be deleted from this list must submit the Request to be Removed from CAL FIRE NACL List to CAL FIRE in writing.”

Development and utilization of the NACL for project notification ensures project information is provided to tribal representatives identified by the tribe at their desired address. Notification letters for this project were sent on May 17, 2024 to the approximately 70 contacts included in the “San Bernardino WEST” NACL list.

Additionally, a records check request was submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center for the project area plus a 0.25 mile buffer. The results of the records check request, any responses to the information request sent to the Native American Contact List, pre-field research, and field survey results were compiled in a Cultural Resources Survey Report prepared by Ascent Environmental. The draft report was reviewed and approved by State Parks and CAL FIRE Archaeologists.

As environmental analysis was completed for this project, it was determined that SERP would be the most appropriate path forward and State Parks, not CAL FIRE, would need to be the Lead Agency. This was determined after tribal notifications had been made utilizing the CAL FIRE Cultural Resource Review Procedures; State Park staff concurred with the use of CAL FIRE’s process.

In addition to the above-described outreach, the seven tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s list of tribal contacts for San Bernardino County (attached) were contacted directly via phone or email on 11/5/2025 to ensure they were aware of the project and to address any questions or concerns. Project partners will continue to engage with tribes if further questions or concerns arise.



I. CDFW recommends public outreach and coordination with interested parties and public agencies. Please provide a summary of the Lead Agency's engagement with interested parties and public agencies. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

This Project was partially brought about due to requests to the partners by residential community members located near the Park that wanted to see restoration and fire resilience efforts implemented there. As a result, the Project partners have continued to collaboratively engage the community located near the Park as well as the Fire Chief from the City of Yucaipa where the Project is located. The community has formed an engaged local fire safe council called the Wildwood Watchers. IERCD staff attend all bi-annual Wildwood Watchers meetings and CAL FIRE staff are in regular communication with their president.

On September 26, 2023, the Project partners, City of Yucaipa Fire Chief, and Wildwood Watchers president performed a site visit to initiate the collaborative CEQA planning process and identify potential restoration treatments together. At the Wildwood Watchers meeting held on October 22, 2023, IERCD staff provided initial information, including the Project background and need, involved partners, and preliminary treatment areas, and solicited feedback and questions from community members. The Wildwood Watchers president also provided a brief project update at their meeting held on April 21, 2024. Most recently, State Parks, CAL FIRE, and IERCD staff attended the April 27, 2025 Wildwood Watchers meeting to provide updates on the significant progress made in Project planning, explain the current SERP efforts underway with CDFW, and solicit community feedback and answer questions about the proposed Project. The Project partners will continue to engage the community members and City of Yucaipa through the remainder of the planning process, as well as during Project implementation.

4. REQUIRED DETERMINATIONS

Using substantial evidence and best available science, provide a determination and explanation for each SERP criteria listed below:

A. The Project is exclusively one or both of the following: (1) a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, or (2) a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife.

State Parks has determined the Project is exclusively a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, and a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife.

Please provide an explanation supporting the above determination. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

Project implementation would contribute to the protection of the native species and the habitats upon which they rely from the threat of catastrophic wildfire by altering wildfire fuel arrangements thereby reducing wildfire severity, improving wildfire suppression potential, and addressing wildfire ignition risks associated with the interior and adjacent residential structures through strategic treatment within chaparral communities. Prescribed burning would contribute to the restoration and enhancement of grassland habitats to the benefit of grassland species including but not limited to Crotch's bumble bee, burrowing owl, and western spadefoot. Wildfire and climate resiliency of oak woodlands would be enhanced through selective thinning and prescribed burning understory fuels; in addition, any tree identified to be infested with goldspotted oak borer will be removed and



properly disposed of to reduce transmission throughout the Park. Reintroduction of low-intensity, beneficial fire to grasslands and oak woodlands will benefit these more frequent-fire adapted ecosystems while providing wildfire resiliency protections to adjacent, less frequent-fire adapted chaparral communities. Additional species of benefit include but are not limited to:

- Chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Jaeger's milk-vetch (*Astragalus pachypus* var. *jaegeri*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Palmer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*, CRPR 1B.2)
- San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover (*Castilleja lasiorhyncha*, CRPR 1B.2)
- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*, CRPR 1B.1)
- White-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*, CRPR 1B.2)
- Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*, CESA Endangered, CRPR 1B.3)
- Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*, ESA Endangered, CESA Endangered, CRPR 1B.1)
- Vanishing wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum evanidum*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*, CRPR 1B.1)
- California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*, CRPC 2B.1)
- Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha* ssp. *hallii*, CRPR 1B.3)
- Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.2)
- Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Parish's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *parishii*, California Native Plant Protection Act Rare, CRPR 1B.2)
- Salt Spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*, CRPR 2B.2)
- Southern jewelflower (*Streptanthus campestris*, CRPR 1B.3)
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*, CRPR 1B.2)
- California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*, CDFW SSC)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*, CDFW SSC)
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*, CDFW SSC)
- Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*, CDFW SSC)
- Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*, CDFW SSC)
- Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*, CDFW SSC)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, CDFW Fully Protected)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*, CDFW SSC)
- Purple martin (*Progne subis*, CDFW SSC)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*, CESA Threatened)
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*, CDFW Fully Protected)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*, CDFW SSC)
- Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*, CDFW SSC)
- Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*, CDFW SSC)
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*, CDFW SSC)
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*, ESA Endangered, CESA Candidate for listing, CDFW SSC)
- San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*, CDFW SSC)
- San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*, CDFW SSC)
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*, ESA Threatened, CESA Threatened)
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*, CDFW SSC)
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*, CDFW SSC)



B. An eligible project may have incidental public benefits, such as public access and recreation.

State Parks has determined that the Project may have incidental public benefits.

Please provide an explanation supporting the above determination. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The Project may have incidental public safety benefits to neighboring residences and utility, transportation, and water supply infrastructure by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. By restoring a more natural fire regime in grasslands and oak woodlands through prescribed burning and hazardous fuel removal the Project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to neighboring property/infrastructure. Additionally, the Project will protect public access and recreation at the Park by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire to Park resources and infrastructure.

C. The Project does both of the following: (1) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and (2) Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

State Parks has determined that the Project does both of the following: (1) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and (2) Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

For each criterion below, please provide an explanation supporting the above determination. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Climate Resiliency:

The Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency by reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire through the strategic alteration of fuel loads in chaparral communities and the reintroduction of low-intensity fire to grassland and oak woodland communities. These treatments will reduce the risk of more frequent, high severity fire, as predicted to occur with climate change, and the associated large-scale release of greenhouse gases and post-fire vegetation type conversion. Furthermore, prescribed burning in grasslands will be timed to target the reduction of non-native invasive species and promote the growth of diverse native species with greater carbon sequestration potential. Enhancement of oak woodlands through understory treatment and removal of pest infected trees will improve the health of the woodlands in the face of increasing climate stressors including more frequent drought and intensifying scale and range of plant pathogens.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Biodiversity:

In the same vein as the above, the Project will result in long-term net benefits to biodiversity by reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire through the strategic alteration of fuel loads in chaparral communities and the reintroduction of low-intensity fire to grassland and oak woodland communities. These treatments will reduce the risk of more frequent, high severity fire, as predicted to occur with climate change, and the associated post-fire vegetation type conversion that is negatively impacting many native species. As discussed, prescribed burning in grasslands will reduce the abundance of non-native invasive species and promote the growth of diverse native plant species such as narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), deer weed (*acmispon glaber*), winecup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), Parish's bluecurls (*Trichostema parishii*), Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulterianum*), and various *Phacelia* and *Calochortus* species. This may in turn increase the diversity of native pollinators such California carpenter bee (*Xylocopa californica*), Monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*), and various *Bombus* (bumble), *Anthophora* (digger), and sweat bee species. Creating a more mosaic growth pattern in existing dense, enclosed chaparral communities will allow for the growth of chaparral species that prefer a more disturbed or otherwise open canopy. As described above, if



anticipated levels of increased biodiversity are not observed during post-treatment monitoring, augmentation via reseeding/planting may occur.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Sensitive Species Recovery:

Crotch's bumble bee has not been documented within the Project area but presence has been assumed due to adjacent occurrences and suitable habitat. The Project would benefit Crotch's bumble bee by enhancing the Parks overall wildfire resiliency, as well as the restoration and enhancement of grassland habitat through prescribed burning. The proposed prescribed burning implementation will burn small plots over several years, creating diverse seral stage of grassland vegetation throughout the landscape. Strategically timed prescribed burning will also help to address invasive species and promote native biodiversity. This Project has been discussed with Xerxes Society who has concurred that the Project as proposed will result in a net benefit to Crotch's bumble bee.

Burrowing owl has not been documented on the property but occurs nearby; the project site is also located adjacent to a primary migratory corridor between the coast and the Coachella Valley. There is a heavy fossorial mammal population throughout the Park, which are critical for creating suitable natural burrows for burrowing owl to inhabit. Grassland restoration via prescribed burning of thatch and an associated reduction in overall vegetation height and density could provide ideal habitat, especially in early seral stage plots.

Spadefoot toad has not been documented on the property but occurs nearby. Though the Park lacks vernal pools, it contains other suitable habitat types and past land uses, such as ranching, have been shown to produce suitable conditions for spadefoot. Similar to Crotch's bumble bee and burrowing owl, grassland management would benefit any spadefoot on the property.

Both Yucaipa onion and Parry's spineflower occur within the Project area. The Yucaipa onion occurrence is within the immediate vicinity of the proposed manual chaparral fuel reduction near the southern boundary of the park. The species is dependent upon clay-soil openings in chaparral; given the density of the chaparral in this area, creating openings will improve potential habitat for this species. The 2005 observation of this population noted that it was "becoming increasingly difficult to locate as habitat recovers from fire ~ 6 years ago", supporting the benefit of reducing the shrub canopy density. The Parry's spineflower occurrence is less specific; notes for this population occurrence describe the habitat and location as, "Chaparral and oak groves on canyon and on ridges. On open cleared ridgetop N of Hubner House at edge of chaparral in bare zone and on open mesa top (cleared area) S of the Hubner House." Treatments within this described vicinity include prescribed burning of grasslands and manual infrastructure treatment. These treatments would have an indirect benefit to spineflower by improving the overall wildfire resiliency of the park. If the specific location of the population was identified, targeted manual treatment could be implemented to reduce shrub canopy density and improve potential habitat given the noted preference for more open habitat structure.

Various other special-status or otherwise sensitive species occurring, or with the potential to occur, at the park that will benefit from the protection from catastrophic wildfire and habitat restoration and enhancement provided by the proposed treatments, including but not limited to:

- Chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Jaeger's milk-vetch (*Astragalus pachypus* var. *jaegeri*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Palmer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*, CRPR 1B.2)
- San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover (*Castilleja lasiorhyncha*, CRPR 1B.2)
- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*, CRPR 1B.1)
- White-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*, CRPR 1B.2)



- Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*, CESA Endangered, CRPR 1B.3)
- Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*, ESA Endangered, CESA Endangered, CRPR 1B.1)
- Vanishing wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum evanidum*, CRPR 1B.1)
- Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*, CRPR 1B.1)
- California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*, CRPC 2B.1)
- Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha* ssp. *hallii*, CRPR 1B.3)
- Parish's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *parishii*, California Native Plant Protection Act Rare, CRPR 1B.2)
- Salt Spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*, CRPR 2B.2)
- Southern jewelflower (*Streptanthus campestris*, CRPR 1B.3)
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*, CRPR 1B.2)
- California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*, CDFW SSC)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*, CDFW SSC)
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*, CDFW SSC)
- Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*, CDFW SSC)
- Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*, CDFW SSC)
- Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*, CDFW SSC)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, CDFW Fully Protected)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*, CDFW SSC)
- Purple martin (*Progne subis*, CDFW SSC)
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- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*, CDFW SSC)
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*, CDFW SSC)

Procedures for the Protection of the Environment:

Avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures will be implemented during the Project to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources and to protect the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Established BMPs and California Board of Forestry's Forest Practice Rules and operational standards will be implemented as part of the Project and include protection from vegetation disturbance in the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones as appropriate, erosion and dust control measures, and inspections for wildlife and equipment leaks prior to implementation of the Project. A list of avoidance and minimization measures related to the protection of the environment has been attached and include but are not limited to:

- Native Vegetation Communities and Plants: The treatment design will maintain a minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs within the treatment areas to maintain habitat functions; the appropriate percent cover will be determined based on the vegetation communities that are present within a specific treatment area



and may be adjusted throughout the course of the Project, if necessary, as informed by post-treatment monitoring and adaptive management.

- **Special-Status Plants:** Protocol-level surveys for special-status plants would be conducted pursuant to Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018, or current version) prior to treatment in any habitat potentially suitable for special-status plants with potential to occur in the treatment area. If special-status plant species are found during the focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer will be established around the area. If individuals are not observed in known occurrence areas during drought or otherwise suboptimal years, the area of the known occurrence may be buffered despite the lack of detectable individuals to avoid seed bank impacts.
- **Invasive Plants:** Following burning and thinning activities, during the spring months of the year following activities, invasive plant surveys would be conducted across all treatment areas. The focus of surveys would be to detect new introductions of target invasive species that are either limited in occurrence or not known to occur within or in proximity to Wildwood Canyon State Park. Target species would be mapped and subsequently treated. Treatments may include removal of all plant material including propagules and/or chemical treatments.
- **Protection of Nesting Birds:** Nesting bird and bat roost surveys will be conducted from March 15 to September 15 (January 1 – September 15 for sensitive raptors) within 7-14 days of any mechanical or manual treatments to determine if nesting activity is occurring. Buffers will be established around identified nesting/roosting sites as appropriate.
- **Protection of Wildlife Species and Other Best Management Practices:**
 - A pre-treatment briefing will be held prior to the start of treatment activities that will identify special status species, including their sign, with potential to occur and instructions on notifying State Parks or CAL FIRE Resource Management staff if CESA- or ESA-listed species are detected. Crews will be instructed to allow any wildlife encountered to move out of harm's way of their own volition.
 - Any snags, hollow trees, and other habitat features that may serve as roosting habitat for bats or avian species will be retained within treatment units to the extent practicable while maintaining safety.
 - Equipment would be kept on existing roads and trails to the extent possible.
 - Cut vegetation to be treated by chipping would be chipped onsite; chip depth would not exceed four inches or cover more than 50 percent of the ground. Chips would be kept at least three feet away from the base of residual trees or where they may pass into watercourses. Chips will be placed in the least environmentally sensitive locations present and consideration will be taken to avoid high densities of burrows, high quality floral resources, friable soils, and other indicators of sensitive habitat to the extent feasible. When feasible, chips may be removed offsite, or cut vegetation will be treated via less impactful means such as pile burning or mastication.
 - Treatment associated with the fuel reduction would occur in a mosaic pattern and leave remnant islands of vegetation in various sizes and shapes, as to maintain natural appearance and function and avoid type conversion.
 - A qualified biologist will train all crew members and contractors about decontamination of equipment prior to entering the state Park, specifically with regard to mud and seed dispersal.
 - Work stoppage will occur when predicted precipitation events and conditions in which saturated soil may increase erosion and impacts to habitat occur.
 - All staging areas and fueling or maintenance of vehicles and equipment will occur outside of sensitive habitat areas including water bodies, drainages, and riparian habitat.
 - Firing techniques and prescribed burn operations will be designed to avoid entrapment of wildlife and will primarily rely on backing fires that move slowly and provide wildlife the opportunity to escape areas of active fire. If sensitive wildlife species are discovered during burn operations, the burn boss will shift work to avoid or minimize impacts to the wildlife as appropriate.

Ongoing Management for the Protection of the Environment:



The Park is expected to remain under State Park ownership and will be managed in line with the State Parks Mission. CAL FIRE BDU and State Parks plan to conduct maintenance of all proposed treatments. Treatment areas requiring maintenance re-entries will be identified on an annual basis. To ensure project goals and objectives are being met as climate and other environmental conditions change in the future, an adaptive management approach will be taken, and a Project monitoring strategy will developed to inform any necessary changes to treatment types, location, and prescriptions. The monitoring program will include pre-treatment survey transects conducted on all sites identified for treatment within a given year.

D. The Project does not include any construction activities, except for construction activities solely related to habitat restoration.

State Parks has determined that the Project does not include any construction activities, except for construction activities solely related to habitat restoration.

Please provide an explanation supporting the above determination. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The Project does not include any construction activities, and all Project activities are solely related to habitat and species conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement, with incidental public benefit.

5. CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have the authority to determine whether a project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15025(a)(1), and this Project meets all the requirements described in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, and that I have submitted all the determinations required therein necessary to obtain the concurrence of the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

DocuSigned by:

Ken Kietzer

29744752CBCF4C1...

Date: 11/12/2025

Lead Agency Signature

Printed Name and Title: Ken Kietzer, District Senior Environmental Scientist