

ERRATA
INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
ISMND JOSHUA TREE CAMPSITE

SCH Number: 2025020486

PROJECT TITLE: ISMND Joshua Tree Campsite – JT Prospecting, LLC

PROJECT NO.: PROJ-2023-00023

APN: 0631-201-68

PROJECT LOCATION:

62076 Mercury Drive
Joshua Tree, California 92252

LEAD AGENCY:

County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

PURPOSE OF ERRATA

San Bernardino County (County), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared this Errata to clarify and correct information contained in the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the ISMND Joshua Tree Campsite – JT Prospecting, LLC project (PROJ-2023-00023; proposed project), State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2025020486.

This Errata, in conjunction with the IS/MND prepared for the project, constitutes the complete environmental document for purposes of CEQA review. The Errata has been prepared to address minor clarifications and corrections to the project description that do not revise or expand the scope of the environmental analysis contained in the IS/MND.

In addition to minor project description corrections, this Errata incorporates revisions to mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) based on comments received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) dated March 12, 2025. These revisions clarify regulatory requirements and strengthen mitigation measures related to biological resources.

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15073.5 and 15164, an Errata may be used to clarify or correct a previously circulated environmental document where the changes do not result in new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts. The revisions identified in this Errata consist of minor text corrections and clarifications and do not result in any new significant environmental

impacts, do not increase the severity of impacts previously analyzed, and consist of clarifications and refinements to existing mitigation measures to ensure consistency with current regulatory requirements.

The information contained in this Errata does not change any of the impact conclusions, mitigation measures, or findings contained in the IS/MND and does not constitute new information requiring recirculation. Accordingly, no additional environmental review is required under CEQA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION CORRECTION

The IS/MND references the proposed campground as consisting of fifteen (15) campsites in various locations throughout the document. The proposed project has decreased the number of campsites from 15 to 12. The correct number of proposed campsites is twelve (12).

The corrected project description is as follows:

The proposed project consists of establishing a twelve (12) campsite dry campground, with no water service, on one parcel (APN 0631-201-68) totaling approximately 7.5 acres, within the Homestead Valley Community Area of Joshua Tree. Each campsite includes space for parking and either tent or contained RV/trailer camping. All other project features and operational characteristics remain as previously described.

MITIGATION MEASURE CLARIFICATIONS AND REVISIONS

Based on comments received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) dated March 12, 2025, mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) have been revised and expanded to clarify requirements, incorporate current regulatory standards, and ensure enforceability. This includes refinement of existing mitigation measures as well as the addition of new mitigation measures addressing biological resources consistent with impacts previously identified in the IS/MND. These additions do not represent new or more severe impacts, but rather provide additional specificity and regulatory alignment for mitigation of impacts already analyzed. The added mitigation measures do not constitute new information of substantial importance because they do not identify new significant impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts, but instead provide clarification and additional detail to ensure compliance with applicable State regulations. Specifically, mitigation measures BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5 have been added to the MMRP, and the previously adopted BIO-3 has been replaced with updated nesting bird protection requirements reflected in BIO-5. The changes presented below would not result in any new significant impacts or an increase in impact significance from what was identified in the Public Review Draft IS/MND, and recirculation is not required pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5. This document presents, in ~~striketrough~~ and underline format, the revisions to the Mitigation Measures.

BIO-1: Two (2) Joshua trees were found on site during the focused Western Joshua Tree census survey performed in 2024. Any impacts to the Joshua tree or within fifty (50) ~~forty (40) feet~~ of the Western Joshua Tree shall require compliance with the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA), which

was passed in July 2023 to conserve Western Joshua Tree and its habitat while supporting the state's renewable energy and housing priorities. The WJTCA authorizes CDFW to:

- Permit the trimming and removal of hazardous or dead Western Joshua Trees.
- Permit the incidental take of Western Joshua Trees under CESA provided the permittee meets certain conditions.

The Project shall avoid impacts to the Western Joshua Trees on site through avoiding construction within fifty (50) ~~forty (40)~~ of the trees onsite. If it becomes necessary for construction to occur within fifty (50) ~~forty (40)~~ of the trees onsite (i.e. impact the trees per the WJTCA), any proposed impacts to the Joshua trees on site shall require prior authorization from CDFW pursuant to the WJTCA.

Removal of onsite Joshua trees or century plants shall be required to comply with Section 88.01 of the San Bernardino Development Code, which requires the issuance of a permit prior to the removal of regulated trees and plants. As WJT is a candidate under CESA, removal or any take is currently permitted through CDFW.

BIO-3: Desert Kit Fox. No more than fourteen (14) days and no less than three (3) days prior to the beginning of surface disturbance, the Designated Biologist shall conduct a pre-Project 10-meter transect survey (or reduced based on topography and vegetation), to attain 100% visual coverage within the Project area and a minimum of 200-meter buffer to determine the presence or absence of desert kit fox individuals, dens, and sign. Permittee shall provide the results of the survey to CDFW prior to start of Project activities.

If potential dens are located, they shall be monitored by the Designated Biologist. Trail camera may be used to assist with observation but shall not be the sole basis upon which the status is determined. Permittee shall provide a determined if active dens can be avoided and buffered from Project activities to prevent take or disturbance with the survey results.

Should active dens be present within the Project area that cannot be avoided with an adequate buffer, the Permittee shall reschedule Project activities or submit a monitoring and relocation plan for CDFW's review and approval. No disturbance or relocation of active dens may take place when juveniles may be present and dependent on parental care.

Permittee shall block off inactive dens within the buffer zone with rocks and sticks to discourage use during Project activities and remove when construction is complete. The Designated Biologist shall periodically check the inactive burrows remain blocked and are not reoccupied.

BIO-4: Crotch's Bumble Bee Habitat Assessment. Prior to vegetation removal and/or grading, a Designated Biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment to determine whether Crotch's bumble bee habitat is present or absent in the Project site and adjoining area. The habitat assessment shall be performed according to the 2023 CDFW Survey Considerations for Candidate Bumble Bee.

If habitat for Crotch's bumble bee is present, a Designated Biologist shall conduct focused surveys prior to vegetation removal and/or grading for the presence/absence of Crotch's bumble bee. Survey

methodology shall follow the 2023 CDFW Survey Considerations for Candidate Bumble Bee. Surveys shall be conducted during the flying season when the species is most likely to be detected above ground, between March 1 to September 1, by an approved Designated Biologist familiar with Crotch's bumble bee behavior and life history. Surveys shall be conducted within the Project site and areas adjacent to the Project site where suitable habitat exists. Survey results including negative findings shall be submitted to CDFW at least 30 days prior to Project-related vegetation removal and/or ground-disturbing activities. If the species is identified on site, Project Proponent shall fully avoid the species absent take authorization. If the Project may result in take of Crotch's bumble bee through either nest destruction or destruction of potential nests hidden in bunch grasses or other nesting habitat, or if complete avoidance of Crotch's bumble bee cannot be achieved, Project activities shall be postponed until appropriate authorization (i.e., a finalized CESA ITP under Fish and Game Code section 2081) is obtained.

BIO-5: Nesting Birds. All Project related activities shall be conducted outside of the typical nesting bird season (January 15 to August 31) to the maximum extent feasible. Regardless of the time of year, a qualified avian biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities. The survey shall focus on all suitable nesting areas such as but not limited to: trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. If a nest is suspected, but not confirmed, the qualified avian biologist shall establish a disturbance-free buffer until additional surveys can be completed, or until the location can be confirmed based on observations. If a nest is observed, but thought to be inactive, the qualified avian biologist shall monitor the nest for at least 1 hour. When an active nest is confirmed, the qualified avian biologist shall immediately establish a conservative buffer surrounding the nest based on their best professional judgement and experience. The buffer shall be delineated to ensure that its location is known by all persons working within the vicinity but shall not be marked in such a manner that it attracts predators. The qualified avian biologist shall monitor the nest to determine the efficacy of the buffer and shall adjust the buffer accordingly if it is determined to have an adverse reaction. The qualified avian biologist shall monitor the nest daily until activities are no longer within 300 feet of the nest, or the fledglings become independent of their nest, or the nest has failed. Documentation of surveys and findings should be submitted to the CDFW within 10 days of the last survey. If special status species such as but not limited to: burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, LeConte's thrasher, loggerhead shrike, northern harrier, prairie falcon, Swainson's hawk, are found within or adjacent to the Project area then ground disturbing activities shall immediately halt and the Project proponent shall contact CDFW Region 6 Inland Deserts Region.

Previous Mitigation Measure BIO-3

This measure was included in the original IS/MND and has been superseded by revised and expanded mitigation measure BIO-5.

~~**BIO-3:** It is recommended that vegetation removal be conducted outside of the nesting season for migratory birds to avoid direct impacts.~~

~~If vegetation removal occurs during the migratory bird nesting season, between February 1 and September 15, pre construction nesting bird surveys shall be performed within three days prior to vegetation removal.~~

~~If active nests are found during nesting bird surveys, they shall be flagged. A 250 foot buffer shall be fenced around songbird nests and a 500 foot buffer shall be fenced around raptor nests.~~

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATIONS

The correction identified in this Errata does not result in new environmental impacts, nor does it increase the severity of impacts previously analyzed in the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The reduction in the number of campsites from fifteen (15) to twelve (12) represents a reduction in project intensity.

The revised project description does not modify the approved site layout in a manner that would expand disturbance limits or encroach into biological resource areas. All campsite locations remain within previously analyzed disturbance areas and continue to avoid sensitive biological resources, including Western Joshua Trees and creosote bush scrub habitat, consistent with the avoidance measures and mitigation requirements identified in the IS/MND.

Additional revisions to the mitigation measures incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program clarify existing requirements, incorporate current regulatory standards, and strengthen the enforceability of biological resource protections. These updates do not introduce any new significant environmental impacts, nor do they increase the severity of impacts previously identified in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. Instead, the revisions provide additional detail and procedural clarity to ensure compliance with applicable State regulations, including the California Endangered Species Act and the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act. With implementation of the revised mitigation measures, all impacts to biological resources remain less than significant. None of the revisions constitute new information of substantial importance as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5.

No changes are proposed to project access, internal circulation, utilities, operational characteristics, hours of operation, or site management practices. The project will continue to operate as a dry campground with no water service, no utility hookups, and no changes to previously analyzed traffic generation, air quality emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, or public service demands.

All technical studies and appendices prepared in support of the IS/MND, including biological resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources analyses, remain applicable to the revised project description.

This Errata has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15073.5 and 15164, which allow for minor clarifications and corrections to a previously circulated environmental document where no new significant impacts would occur and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts would result. The Errata does not constitute a revision to the IS/MND and does not require recirculation or additional environmental review.

CONCLUSION

The County of San Bernardino may rely on this Errata for purposes of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Except as expressly stated herein, all analyses, mitigation measures, findings, and conclusions contained in the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration remain unchanged and fully applicable to the proposed project.

Prepared By:

Jakki Tonkovich
Vista Environmental

For:

JT Prospecting, LLC

Date: February 9, 2026