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## Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: South Zzyzx Road Modifications  
Project Number: 11-moja-031/PEPC 37646  
Project Description:

The contractor (Brittan Industries) who is constructing the Razor Fence wants to remove soft wind blown sand in two parts of the road south of Zzyzx to better enable his equipment to pass on the existing road from the Zzyzx south gate to the Razor Ranch area. This road maintenance would allow Brittan to efficiently move his equipment (a single large Bobcat and two 3/4 ton trucks) away from the project area and into safer overnight storage at Zzyzx without having to make the long loop trip in and out Razor Rd. Two areas of the existing road will be affected, both 11-12 feet wide. Location 1 is found on Zzyzx Rd, 1/4 mile north of the junction with Old Mojave Road. This area has windblown sand accumulated over a section about 400 feet long reaching a maximum depth of 1.5 feet. Location 2 is on the Old Mojave Road, 1/4 mile west of the junction with Zzyzx Road and consists of a highly disturbed section of the Old Mojave Road covered by windblown sand about 100 ft long and 1.5 ft thick. The contractor will carefully remove the minimum amount of sand necessary to provide passage of work vehicles and would not be allowed to cut below the loose sand into the playa surface. In both locations the loose sand will be moved by dump truck back to the disturbed burn area just to the north of the Zzyzx south gate. In no case will the contractor be allowed impact areas outside the existing footprint of the road and loose sand removed from the roadbed will not be placed anywhere other than in the designated, previously disturbed Zzyzx storage area. After the contractor has completed construction of the Razor Fence a determination will be made if some, or any, of the sand stored off site will be returned to the removal areas. Due to the large amount of wind-blown sand in this area occurring normally, it is expected that under either scenario little or no evidence of the sand removal will remain within one year of project completion.

This project area is not in desert tortoise habitat and only loose windblown sand will be removed to clear the existing road in the two designated areas.

### Project Locations:

#### Location 1 & 3, i.e., Location 1

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County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Zzyzx	Section:	Zzyzx Road south to Razor OHV Area
Geo. Marker:		Other:	N580851 E3887180
County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Zzyzx	Section:	Zzyzx Road south to Razor OHV Area
Geo. Marker:		Other:	N580792 E3887080

Location 2 & 4, i.e., Location 2

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Zzyzx	Section:	Mojave Road west of Zzyzx Road
Geo. Marker:		Other:	N580364 E3886651
County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Zzyzx	Section:	Mojave Road west of Zzyzx road
Geo. Marker:		Other:	N580348 E3886625

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.9 Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, etc., on existing roads.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an expedited review of the proposed action. It was reviewed for impacts to cultural and natural resources, and for maintenance issues. The Chief of Resource Management conducted two site visits and assessed the two locations for archeological concerns. The sand to be moved is naturally occurring, wind-blown deposits. These sites will be gradually refilled over time without alteration to the local topography. Law enforcement will provide on-site monitoring during sand removal operations to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. No significant adverse impacts were identified. Impairment is not anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed action.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent: SR Dubois Date: 6/23/11

NPS Contact: [Signature] Date: 06/23/2011