

EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER

Bureau of Land Management California

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF WALTERS CAMP ROAD

February 16, 2024

ACTION: Under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C 1701 *et seq.*) as amended and pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that the public lands described below are closed to all forms of public access. This closure is necessary to protect public land visitors from risks associated with the potential collapse of a section of Walters Camp Road due to Milpitas Wash eroding the roadway and creating a 40-50' drop to the bottom of the wash. The closure is also needed to protect the BLM staff and other personnel from activities that could interfere with the future road work in the area necessary to ensure the site has been adequately remediated and is safe for public entry.

AFFECTED AREA: The closure applies to public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office and Yuma Field Office over a segment of Walters Camp Road (BLM-designated route 704) located in eastern Imperial County, California. The closure begins at the intersection of Highway 78 and terminates approximately three miles at the point shown on the attached map. Lands subject to the closure are described as follows: San Bernardino Meridian, California T. 10. S., R. 21 E., sec. 26, N1/2SW1/4SW1/4, sec. 27, SW1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2NW1/4SE1/4, N1/2SE1/4SE1/4, sec. 28, S1/2NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4.

PROHIBITIONS: For safety, in relation to the potential collapse of a section of the road, all public entry to the affected area of Walters Camp Road (BLM-designated route 704) located in eastern Imperial County, California.

DATES: This closure is effective beginning at 6:00 a.m. on February 16, 2024, and will remain in effect until road worked is concluded and road conditions are safe for public entry. A notice lifting this order will be issued by the BLM.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

- 1. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized medical, rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities.
- 2. Individuals involved in the repairs and remediation of the road.
- 3. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties.

4.Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties. 5.Parties who carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer allowing access to the described public lands.

PENALTIES: Any person who violates this Order may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3571, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Vehicles found in violation of this Order may be removed.

EFFECTIVE: This Order is effective beginning at 6:00 a.m. February 16, 2024, and will remain in effect until road conditions are safe.

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