

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard (*Uma inornata*) Survey Protocol

1. Landowner determines if CVFTLs occur on the property. The landowner can assume presence and move on to step 3. If the landowner does not assume presence, then up to six surveys over the same area on separate days must be done by qualified biologists. The entire parcel must be surveyed using transects spaced 5 meters apart. The surveys must occur between April and October (inclusive of both months) between 7:30-11:00 a.m. when the temperature 1 centimeter above the open (unshaded) sand surface is greater than 95 degrees Fahrenheit and less than 110 degrees Fahrenheit (35 to 43 degrees Celsius). There shall be at least two or more surveyors working together. The surveyors should tap vegetation (without damaging it) to try and get the lizards to flush. One person will focus on the substrate/habitat 30-40 meters in front while the other one focuses in the area 2-10 meters in front. Surveys shall be conducted only when winds are 10 mph or less and it is not raining. The survey route should be recorded using a GPS unit and shown superimposed on aerial-satellite images. Surveys do not have to continue for all six times once a CVFTL is found.
2. If no CVFTL are detected during the six surveys, then it will be assumed the site is unoccupied and no Incidental Take Permit is required.
3. If CVFTL occur on the property then an Incidental Take Permit is required. An application for an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish & Game is attached. This indicates the information that is required, which includes measures that will fully mitigate the impacts of the taking. These measures include purchase of lands offsite and establishment of an endowment for management of the lands. Issuance of permits takes up to 120 days once the application is complete. A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document is required prior to issuance of the permit.