

## Notice of Determination

**To:**

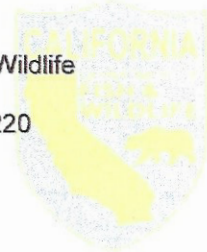
Office of Planning and Research  
For U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
Contact: Dr. Shankar Sharma  
Phone: 909-228-3692

**Lead Agency**

County of Riverside  
77-588 El Duna Court, Suite H  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
Contact: Mr. Jay Olivas  
Phone: 760-863-7050

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108**

**State Clearinghouse Number: 2018101062**

**Project Title:** Painted Hills Wind Energy Repowering Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0044-R6)

**Project Location (include county):** The project is located within Section 1 of Township 3 South, Range 3 East, and Section 6 of Township 3 South, Range 4 East, in unincorporated Riverside County, California, as shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle Map. The project area is situated within the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and lies north of Interstate 10, west of State Route 62, and east of Whitewater Canyon between the Whitewater and Painted Hills communities.

**Project Description:** The project proposes to decommission and remove old wind turbines and install new turbines with generating capacity from 2 to 4.2 megawatts (MW). The interrelated activities will include installation of meteorological towers, construction of pads, roads and electrical collection systems, integration of the wind turbines to the electrical grid, and decommissioning of the turbines at the end of their life cycle. There will be 12-kilovolt (kV) underground collector circuits from each wind turbine to an existing 12 kV distribution system and 12 kV to 115 kV collector substation. The integration system will include 34.5 kV underground collector circuits from each wind turbine to a new 34.5 kV to 115 kV collector substation. General equipment will include a crane, haul trucks, excavators, scrapers, and graders.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project on August 19, 2019 and made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the  mitigated negative declaration /  negative declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures  were /  were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was /  was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The  mitigated negative declaration /  negative declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature

*Scott Wilson*

Date

*8/19/2019*

Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_