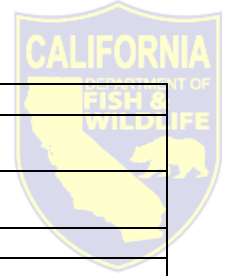


Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research CEQA Submit	From: Department of Fish and Wildlife Inland Deserts Region 3602 Inland Empire Blvd Suite C-220 Ontario, CA 91764 Contact: Julia Kara Email: Julia.Karo@wildlife.ca.gov
	Lead Agency
	County of San Bernardino, Planning Department 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Third Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182 Contact: Randy Scott, Planning Manager Phone: (909)387-4099

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 1994072050

Project Title: Lucerne Valley Operations Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-010-06 (ITP))

Project Location (San Bernardino County): The Project is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the community of Lucerne Valley and approximately 8.5 miles north of the City of Big Bear within the San Bernardino National Forest (Figure 1). The Project is located within portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17 within Township 3 North, Range 1 East, San Bernardino Baseline Meridian. The Project is also located on Assessor Parcel Numbers 0446-061-07, 0447-021-10, 0447-031-05, 0446-071-10, 0447-031-09, 0447-031-10, and 0447-031-08. The Project is located on the north range front of the San Bernardino Mountains.

Project Description: The Project includes the continued operation and approved expansion of the Lucerne Valley Operations including Arctic Canyon and Marble Canyon. The project includes the mining expansion into the remaining approximate 218 acres of the approved 526 acres of operation. The Project will result in the permanent impact to 196.35 acres of western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of western Joshua tree, which is designated as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on January 31, 2023, and has 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 environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings **were** made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Final EIR 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 a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____

1/31/2023

Date: _____

Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____