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:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220
Contact: Alyssa Marquez
Phone: 760-873-7452

Lead Agency
California Department of Transportation
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Contact: Katie Rodriguez
Phone: 760-872-5204

SUBJECT: ***Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108***
State Clearinghouse Number: 2010091023

Project Title: Olancha-Cartago Four-Lane (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0008-R6)

Project Location: The Project is located along and to the west of the existing U.S. Highway 395 near the towns of Olancha and Cartago, in the County of Inyo, State of California. The Project extends from Post Mile (PM) 29.95 north to PM 41.8.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2020-0008-R6, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Project Applicant, California Department of Transportation, as represented by Katie Rodriguez.

The proposed Project is limited to: conversion of approximately 1.8 miles of the existing U.S. 395 from a two-lane highway into a four-lane expressway, the construction of 8.45 miles of a new four-lane expressway on a new alignment and 1.6 miles of a two-lane expressway (southbound lanes only) on a new alignment to the west of the existing alignment. The Project includes the removal of approximately 116 trees (56 cottonwoods, 58 willows, 1 Siberian elm and 1 Arizona ash), temporary stream diversions, installation of permanent desert tortoise fencing along the Caltrans Right of Way, installation of 97 new culverts, removal of 9 existing culverts, and fill of 50 streambeds subject to Fish and Game Code Section 1602 resources. The Project will result in 16.926 acres of permanent impacts and 3.521 acres of temporary impacts to areas subject to Fish and Game Code Section 1602 resources.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above described project on December 9, 2020 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project ☐ will/ ☒ 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 ☐ were / ☒ were not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings ☒ were / ☐ 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.

DocuSigned by:
Scott Wilson
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Signature _____ *Date:* 12/9/2020
Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____