

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 (CDFW)
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764 Contact:
Shankar.Sharma@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
County of Riverside
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502
Contact: Russell Brady, Project Planner
Phone: (951) 955-3025

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2015031066

Project Title: Desert Quartzite Solar Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-063-06 Amendment No. 1 (ITP))

Project Location: Desert Quartzite LLC, a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, has proposed development of the Desert Quartzite Solar Project (Project), which is located in the Palo Verde Mesa region of eastern Riverside County, California, at southwest of the City of Blythe, and south of the Interstate 10 freeway. The Project site is situated on the Roosevelt Mine and Ripley 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangles within Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24 of Township 7S, Range 21E, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

Project Description: The Project consists of a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure facilities, and a proposed 230-kilovolt (kV) generator-tie line (gen-tie) connecting to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Colorado River Substation. The Project is expected to generate 450 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy.

The Project as authorized in Minor Amendment No.1 will revise the Project description to include project phased construction, phased compensatory mitigation, and updated electrical supply line alignment. Permittee shall provide a total of 2,953 acres of compensation by phase as follows: Phases 1 and 2 (1,855 acres), and Phase 3 (1,098 acres). Permittee shall provide \$24,313,040 security by phase as follows: Phases 1 and 2 (\$16,085,940), and Phase 3 (\$8,227,100).

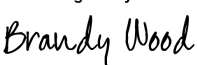
CDFW finds that this Amendment is a Minor Amendment, as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c)(4). Issuance of this Amendment will not increase the amount of take of the Covered Species compared to the Project as originally approved, nor will this Amendment increase other Project impacts on the Covered Species (i.e., "impacts of taking" as used in Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subd. (b)(2)). Issuance of this Amendment does not affect CDFW's previous determination that issuance of the ITP meets and is otherwise consistent with the permitting criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c). CDFW now reissues this ITP including the revised provisions in this Minor Amendment (Collectively, the Amended ITP). The Amended ITP includes all of the operative provisions as of the effective date of this Amended ITP.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 02/28/2025 and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

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. An environmental impact report / A negative declaration was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional 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.

Notice of Determination

- 5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 6. Findings were / were not made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
- 7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4:
 - Payment is submitted with this notice.
 - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.
- Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

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2/28/2025

Signature _____ Date: _____

for Heidi Calvert, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____