

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Rose Banks
Email: Rose.Banks@wildlife.ca.gov
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Lead Agency
Imperial County
801 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
Contact: David Black
Email: davidblack@co.imperial.ca.us

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2014071062

Project Title: Hell's Kitchen Well Pad 4 and S-Berm Access Road Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0113-R6

Project Location: The project is located adjacent to the Salton Sea in Imperial County, approximately four miles west of Niland. It is located within Sections 2 and 11 of Township 11 South, Range 13 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, southwest of the Davis Road and Noffsinger Road intersection. Well pad 4 is located on exposed playa areas near Mullett Island. The S-Berm Access Road is located on top of the S-Drain and will extend out to Well Pad 4.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2019-0113-R6, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, Hell's Kitchen Geothermal, LLC.

The Project proposes to conduct geothermal exploration within their lease area to verify the viability of future utilization of the geothermal resource within Hell's Kitchen Geothermal lease area. The jurisdictional impacts are limited to the S-Berm Access Road and Well Pad 4. The S-Berm Access Road would begin at the existing S-Berm Road and would extend south approximately 612 feet to the northern boundary of Well Pad 4. An 80-foot long, 10-foot wide by 4-foot tall, reinforced concrete pipe with 16-foot flared end sections would be installed beneath the S-Berm Access Road to convey water from the S-Drain beneath the road. Approximately 30 cubic yards of six-inch riprap would be installed at the upstream and downstream ends of the culvert. Well Pad 4 will be 300 feet by 700 feet where up to four exploration and monitoring wells will be drilled.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on May 17, 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.

Signature: Alisa Ellsworth Date: 5/17/2023
Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

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Date Received for filing at OPR: _____