

**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  
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**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Ste C220  
Contact: Jacob Skaggs  
Phone: 760-218-0320

Lead Agency  
Coachella Valley Water District  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
Contact: Luke Stowe  
Phone: 760-398-2651

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

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2017041072

**Project Title:** Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2018-0085-R6)

**Project Location (include county):** The Project site is in the central portion of the Coachella Valley in the city of Palm Desert in Riverside County. The Project site is located within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, located between Cook Street and Fred Waring Drive.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2018-0085-R6, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project applicant, the Coachella Valley Water District.

The Project involves the construction of three erodible earthen berms placed across the bottom of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel to serve as groundwater replenishment basins. Colorado River Water will be used to fill the replenishment basins. The berms tie into a reinforced concrete diversion structure at the northerly concrete-lined embankment of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel. The concrete diversion structure allows low flows which exceed the capacity of the ponds to bypass the facility.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above-described project on August 10, 2021 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 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 /  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 /  was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings  were /  were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report 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:  
*Heather Pert*  
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For Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8/10/2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

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