

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: Magdalena Rodriguez
Phone: (909) 844-2520

Lead Agency
Riverside County
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1409
Contact: Kevin White
Phone: 951-955-1417

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
State Clearinghouse Number: 2018021021

Project Title: Athos Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0208-R6)

Project Location: The Athos Project (Project) is a part of the larger Athos Renewable Energy Project (AREP) which consists of Athos and Athos II located on a total of 3,224 acres and will share portions of their generation tie-in transmission lines (Gen-tie). Athos is located on approximately 1,924 acres across 5 groups of non-contiguous parcels in Riverside County, north of I-10 and approximately 4 miles east and northeast of the town of Desert Center, California. The project consists of 19 parcels on private land for the solar facility, and 16 parcels located on BLM-administered and private land for the gen-tie lines.

Project Description: The Project includes construction, operation, and maintenance of a 250-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar generating facility on privately-owned land, including a 220-kV gen-tie transmission line located on 7 miles of BLM land interconnecting to the Red Bluff Substation. Permanent impacts will occur to 212.05 acres (84.4 acres of desert dry wash woodland and 127.65 acres of ephemeral wash) of Fish and Game Code Section 1602 resources.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [] the lead agency / [] a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on May 28, 2020 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.
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). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
[] Payment is submitted with this notice.
[] A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.
[] Responsible Agency statement: The Environmental Impact Report 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 streambed agreement is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Scott Wilson
Signature Date: 5/29/2020
Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____