

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
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Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Dana Scott
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Lead Agency
Inyo County Planning Commission
168 N. Edwards St., Annex Building
Independence, CA 93526
Contact: Adena Fansler
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2003041127

Project Title: Owens Lake Operations Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-INY-56468-R6)

Project Location (Inyo County): The project is located on the dry Owens Lakebed, bounded by State Route 136 to the north and east, State Route 190 to the south, and U.S. Highway 395 to the west, in Inyo County. The site is located on assessor's parcel number 29-999-01; in Sections 7-10, 14-24, 26-30, and 32-35, Township 17 south, Range 37 east; and Sections 2-5, 8-10, & 15-17, Township 18 south, Range 37 east, U.S. Geological Survey Olancho, Vermillion Canyon, Owens Lake and Bartlett quadrangle maps.

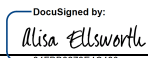
Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-INY-56468-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, U.S. Borax, Inc.

CDFW is issuing a Lake Alteration Agreement for the continued surface mining of trona ore from the dry Owens Lakebed (Project). The Project includes the construction of mining panels, removal of brine and excavation of trona ore from enclosed panels, and transport of trona ore across the lakebed for processing at an offsite location. The Project was previously authorized under Lake Alteration Agreement Nos. 6-002-1999 and 1600-2014-0093-R6. The project will result in temporary impacts to 15,700 acres of CDFW jurisdictional, unvegetated lakebed.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on May 5, 2025 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:  **Date:** 5/6/2025
Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____