

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
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Contact: Melissa Stanfield
Phone: 916-597-6417



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

State Clearinghouse Number: 1997052044

Project Title: Gray Lodge Water Supply Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-024-02-A3 (ITP))

Project Location: The Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Water Supply (Project) is located 65 miles north of Sacramento, in the eastern Sacramento Valley. The Project begins near the intersection of Highway 99, north of the City of Biggs, where it intersects with the main canal (Belding lateral) and continues southwest past the cities of Biggs and Gridley and terminates at the northern border of the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is approving an Amendment to the ITP that includes the following changes: First, this Amendment updates the Principal Officer and Contact Person from Eugene Massa Jr. to Danny Robinson, General Manager of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. Second, this Amendment adds new areas of construction and staging including 3 new minor modification projects. Third, this Amendment updates Figure 2 of the ITP which depicts the proposed timing of the work associated with Lower Belding and Schwind Laterals. In addition, Figure 3A is added to the ITP and shows the location of a new staging area located on Farris Road 0.1 miles south of the Lower Belding Lateral. Proposed work along the Lower Belding and Schwind Laterals added by Amendment No. 3 will result in permanent impacts of 0.046 acre (0.029 acre of upland habitat and 0.017 of aquatic habitat) and temporary impacts of 0.038 acres of upland habitat. Permittee shall mitigate these impacts by purchasing 0.25 credits of GGS habitat from a CDFW-approved conservation bank. The new total mitigation for this project is 14.358 acres of Covered Species Credits. Proof of Covered Species credit purchase shall be provided to CDFW prior to the start of work authorized by Amendment #3.

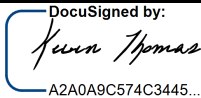
The Project will result in the permanent loss of 2.787 acres of Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) upland habitat and temporary loss of 4.22 acres of aquatic habitat and 17.052 acres of upland habitat, for a total of 21.272 acres. The Project is expected to result in the expansion of Covered Species habitat of 5.276 acres. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of giant garter snake which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (lead agency), has approved the above-described amendment on the date below and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

Notice of Determination

1. The project [will / will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
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 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.

This is to certify that the final Mitigated Negative Declaration with comments and responses, the addenda and record of project approval, are available to the General Public at:
1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____ Date: 8/24/2022

Kevin Thomas, Regional Manager