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**Notice of Determination**

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**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:** DFG  
Office of the General Counsel  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
North Central Region  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Contact: Kursten Sheridan  
Phone: 916-817-0419

Lead Agency (if different from  
above):  
Lead Agency address:  
Contact:  
Phone:

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code**

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 1997052044

**Project Title:** Conveyance of Refuge Water Supply Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-024-02 (ITP))

**Project Location:** The Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Water Supply Project (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 (Wildlife Area).

**Project Description:** This document constitutes an Addendum to the December 19, 1998, Conveyance of Refuge Water Supply-East Sacramento Valley Final Environmental Assessment Initial Study/Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact/Negative Declaration (Final EA/IS) originally prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the subsequent Addendums (hereafter referred to as the Original Project). The Project includes the structural modification of portions of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District's (Water District) water conveyance facilities. The Original Project included approximately 19.24 linear miles of canals, plus a 200 foot buffer on each side of the canal centerline, and included the demolition of existing structures, excavation for new structures, numerous improvements to concrete siphons, bridges, flumes, weirs, check and head gates, raising, and reshaping and widening the canal banks. Due to funding constraints only 4.28 linear miles and 12 structures of the original 43 projected structures were constructed from the Original Project.

The following modifications to the Original Project would be implemented:

- Elimination of the reconstruction of 9.32 linear miles from the Original Project
- Elimination of the construction and reconstruction of 26 structures
- Modifications to the Traynor Lateral Outlet onto GLWA
- Replacement of 2 existing corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) with 3 36-inch CMPs at Schwind Lateral Water Delivery to GLWA at West Liberty Road
- County Road Bridge Redesigns

- Addition of 6 staging areas
- Construction of Setback Checks within the 20-30-foot work area corridor within rice fields.


The Project will result in impacts to 35.02 acres of Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) habitat including temporary impacts to 34.12 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.9 acres of giant garter snake upland habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of giant garter snake which is/are 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 project on June 17, 2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

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 California Code of Regulations section 15091.

This is to certify that the final Mitigated Negative Declaration with comments and responses, the Addendums and record of project approval, are available to the General Public at:

1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Signature:  Date: 8/1/19  
 Kevin Thomas, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 05 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE