

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: Juan Torres
Phone: 916-247-0327



Lead Agency (if different from above):

Lead Agency address:

Contact:

Phone:

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

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse 1997052044

Project Title: Conveyance of Refuge Water Supply Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-024-02-A1 (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.

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 will change the construction sequencing and methodology because the temporary bypass needed to construct the Lower Traynor and the Lower Schwind Canal has been deemed unfeasible due to issues with property owners not willing to allow construction. This change will result in a substantial reduction of the temporary impacts. Second, this amendment changes notification of new observations of Covered Species/to be provided to CNDDDB concurrently with submission of the Quarterly Compliance Report or Annual Status Report, whichever report is submitted first relative to the observation. Third, this amendment updated the project impacts.

The Project will result in impacts to 22.16 acres of Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) habitat including temporary impacts to 19.41 acres; the Project will permanently remove 2.75 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 amendment on the date below and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

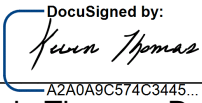
1. The project [will / will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were / were not] made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or 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.

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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: 10/15/2020
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Kevin Thomas, Regional Manager

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

Oct 15 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE