

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 Murphy
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-A2 (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 increases the total linear miles of canals within the Project from 5.64 miles to 6.36 miles. This increase will be the result of adding additional levee improvements to the Upper Belding Lateral including raising several reaches of the Upper Belding Lateral levee between the Razorback Flume and Union Pacific Railroad undercrossing and concurrently widening the canal just upstream of the Union Pacific Railroad undercrossing (0.72 mile). In addition, a portion of the Ashley Lateral will be temporarily filled to facilitate access to the railroad undercrossing. These new activities and project footprint will be added to the ITP's project description as well. Second, this Amendment updates Figure 2 of the ITP which depicts the proposed timing of the work associated with the upper Belding Lateral modifications. Third, this Amendment updates the total acreages of impacts to Covered Species habitat. Proposed work along the Upper Belding Lateral and Gerst Lateral Headgate will result in permanent impacts to 0.127 acres of aquatic habitat and 0.008 acres of upland habitat. Temporary impacts to 0.57 acres of aquatic habitat and 1.354 acres of upland habitat will also result from the proposed work. These impacts will be mitigated for by the purchase of 3.308 additional credits of GGS habitat from the Sutter Basin Conservation Bank.

The Project will result in the permanent loss of 2.758 acres of Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) upland habitat and temporary loss of 4.32 acres of aquatic habitat and 17.054 acres of upland habitat, for a total of 21.374 acres. The Project is expected to result in the expansion of Covered Species habitat of 5.293 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:
Kevin Thomas
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Signature: _____ Date: 10/28/2021
Kevin Thomas, Regional Manager