

**Notice of Determination****- 1 -****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  
 Inland Deserts Region  
 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220  
 Ontario, CA 91764  
 Contact: Charles Land  
 Phone: (760) 218-0063



Lead Agency  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1311  
 Contact: Heather Baugh  
 Phone: (916) 653-5656

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

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2010061062

**Project Title:** Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project (CESA MOU No. 2081a-2019-002-R6) Amendment No. 1

**Project Location (include county):** The Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project is located in Imperial County towards the southern end of the Salton Sea at the mouth of the New River about 9 miles west of the City of Calipatria, Imperial County, State of California.

**Project Description:** The project consists of the construction of a series of gravity-fed ponds with islands and areas of varying water depths that will serve as fish and avian habitat, the development of associated water delivery systems, and associated electrical power infrastructure development to provide power for the water pump(s). These ponds will impound saline water at a shallow depth within the project site to create piscivorous bird habitat within an area of currently exposed and dry playa area. This will be done to offset the loss of habitat of this type that is occurring as the Salton Sea recedes and becomes increasingly saline.

The SCH project will involve the construction of ponds to the east and west of the New River. These ponds will cover a minimum of 3,770 acres and will also be associated with water delivery and electrical power supply infrastructure. The Amendment revises the project description by changing the freshwater intake from a pump to a water diversion structure, adding a flood buffer zone, temporary river crossing, and temporary water diversion within the existing project footprint, and changing details of the design of the saline water channel, sedimentation basins, vista point, and boat ramps.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved Amendment to the above described project on 6/7/2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project  will /  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 /  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 /  was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings  were /  were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report 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 Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

Leslie MacNair

6/8/2021

SignatureDate:

Leslie MacNair, Regional Manager

**Notice of Determination**

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_