

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region 6
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Lead Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2010061062

Project Title: Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat East Pond Expansion Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-IMP-44354-R6)

Project Location: The Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) East Pond Expansion Project (Project) is located at the southern end of the Salton Sea and is adjacent to the mouth of the New River, in the County of Imperial, State of California.


Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-IMP-44354-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, the California Department of Water Resources.

The project is limited to the construction of one aquatic habitat pond called East Pond 1, to be located east of the outlet of the New River and north of the existing Species Conservation Habitat Project ("original SCH Project"), which is permitted under Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) #1600-2016-0141-R6. The Project will use exiting water delivery systems and electrical power infrastructure developed to provide power for the water pumps for the original SCH Project. The Project will restore shallow water habitat lost due to the Salton Sea's ever-increasing salinity and reduced area as the Sea recedes.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on July 24, 2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project **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** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings **were** made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Final EIR 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 a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature:  _____ Date: 7/24/2024
Tonya Marshall, Salton Sea Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____