

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:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Renée Robison
Phone: 559-243-4014

Lead Agency
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
PO Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051
Contact: Kathryn Laudeman
Phone: 213-367-6376

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2008041038

Project Title: Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project: Barren Ridge Substation Expansion (Project)
California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-067-04 (ITP) Major Amendment No. 1

Project Location: The Barren Ridge Switching Station Expansion (Project) is located approximately 9 miles north of California City, Kern County, approximately 0.5 mile west of Highway 14, and approximately 0.25 mile north of Pine Tree Road.

Project Description: The original Project involved expansion of an existing Switching Station resulting in impacts to 4.7 acres of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) habitat including temporary impacts to 1 acre and permanent impact to 3.7 acres of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel habitat. Project implementation began in 2014. ITP Major Amendment No. 1 contemplates further expansion of the Switching Station, occurring in two additional phases, which will increase permanent Project-related impacts to desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel by 14.93 acres. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, which are designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP amendment referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of implementation of the amended Project.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 4/1/2021 and made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

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. [An environmental impact report / A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
 3. Additional 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 Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
 7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
 - Payment is submitted with this notice.
 - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.
- Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Annee Ferranti
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Signature

Date: 4/1/2021

for Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____