

**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: Carrie Swanberg  
 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. 3.

**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 Project, as approved by CDFW, consists of a Major Amendment No. 3. The Project previously approved involved the 14.93-acre expansion and the operation and maintenance of an existing 2.9-acre switching station. Project activities included the installation of electrical structures and equipment for transmission lines, a staging area, and extension and expansion of a drainage ditch creating a switching station size of 17.83 acres. Major Amendment No. 3 involves the further expansion of the switching station by 1.60 acres for the construction of a stormwater retention basin and relocation of an existing dirt access road creating a total switching station size of 19.43 acres.

The Project as authorized in Amendment No. 3 will result in 1.60 acres of additional permanent impact to desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) habitat. 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 (CESA).

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [ the lead agency /  a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 8/4/2022 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:

*Bob Stafford*

Signature

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8/4/2022

Date:

for Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

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