

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:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
 Contact: Kari Kyler Daniska, 559-939-0280

Lead Agency

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044 700 "M" Street,
 Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Contact: Eduardo Cuevas
 eduardo.cuevas@ladwp.com
 Phone: 213-367-3553

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 20088041038

Project Title: Barren Ridge-Haskell Transmission Line 1 by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-049-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Barren Ridge-Haskell Transmission Line 1 is located west of State Highway 14 from the existing Barren Ridge Switching Station (BRSS) located approximately 8.5 miles northwest of the California City and extends in a generally southwest direction for approximately 62 miles and ending approximately 4.0 miles north of the City of Santa Clarita, California. This ITP covers only the Kern County portion of the Barren Ridge-Haskell Transmission Line 1.

Project Description: The Project includes the modification of the existing Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line along the 34-mile section of the existing 230kV transmission line corridor within Kern County. Construction activities will include improvement along existing access roads, establishing work areas and ancillary sites to support construction activities, removal of existing transmission structures and footings, construction of new transmission structure footings and erection of new transmission structures -including stringing towers, and restoration of temporary disturbance areas used exclusively for removal /installation of transmission structures.

The Project will result in permanent and temporary impacts throughout the Project Area to desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), and western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), collectively the Covered Species. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel which are designated as threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in addition to western Joshua tree, a CESA candidate threatened species. Permittee will mitigate through permanent protection and long-term management of 245.11 acres of compensatory habitat for the Covered Species. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of these species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 6/9/2023 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.

Notice of Determination

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 _____

Date: 6/9/2023 _____

FOR Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____