

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd. Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Alexander Funk
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Lead Agency
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue,
San Francisco, CA 94102
Contact: Eric Chiang
Phone: (415) 703-1596

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2018094003

Project Title: Ten West Transmission Line Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-021-R6 (ITP))

Project Location (include county): Within Riverside County, lines and towers will span from Latitude 33.538°, Longitude -114.551°, Section 26, Township 7 South Range 23 East, USGS Blythe Quadrant, APN 875152003, through Latitude 33.538°, Longitude -114.714, Section 30, Township 7 South Range 23 East, USGS Ripley Quadrant, APN 872020009, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Bannock, Meridian San Bernardino.

Project Description: The Project proposed by DCRT consists of a single-circuit, series-compensated, 500 kV transmission line between the Delaney Substation in Maricopa County, Arizona and the CRS in Riverside County, California. The Project would be designed with a conductor capacity to transmit 3,200 megawatts and provide interconnection capability for new energy projects located in the region. It would consist of a typically 200-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW), steel transmission structures, and access roads. Temporary and permanent work areas would also be necessary to construct the towers, install the conductors, and operate and maintain the transmission line.

The Project will result in impacts to 280.2 acres of Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) habitat including temporary impacts to 88.6 acres; the Project will permanently remove 14 acres of Desert Tortoise habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of Desert Tortoise, which are designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above-described project on December 20, 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:
 For _____ Date: 12/21/2021
 Signature: _____ Date: _____
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Leslie McNair, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____