

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Jacob Skaggs
Email: jacob.skaggs@wildlife.ca.gov



Lead Agency
Coachella Valley Water District
75-519 Hovley Land East
Palm Desert, CA 92211
Contact: William Patterson
Email: wpatterson@cvwd.org

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019079095

Project Title: CVWD Phase III A-2 Transmission Main - 2024 (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-RIV-52614-R6)

Project Location (Riverside County): The CVWD Phase III A-2 Transmission Main - 2024 Project (Project) is generally located in the eastern portion of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, California, in the unincorporated community of Thermal. The Project's waterline, installed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will cross under the Whitewater River approximately 750 feet north of Airport Blvd. The Project's associated drill pit and entrance point are located adjacent to and to the east of the Whitewater River, while the exit point and pipe placement and fusing areas are located adjacent to and to the west of the Whitewater River (Exhibit A). GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 33.64379, Longitude: -116.13864. Assessor's Parcel Number: 763-350-013.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-RIV-52614-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, Coachella Valley Water District.

The Project is limited to impacts to streambed associated with use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to install approximately 950 feet of 32-inch fusible high-density polyethylene waterline under the Whitewater River.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on April 4, 2025, 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration 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 not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration 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.

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DocuSigned by:

Kim Freeburn

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Signature: _____

Date: 4/4/2025

Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____