

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:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 South Coast Region 5
 3883 Ruffin Rd.
 San Diego, CA 92123
 Contact: Emily Galli
 Phone: (805) 525-0901

**Lead Agency**

California Department of Water Resources
 1416 9th St.
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Contact: Gina Radieva
 Phone: (916) 651-2458

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2020049025

Project Title: Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0102-R5)

Project Location (include county): The project is located within the immediate vicinity of Castaic Lake. Castaic Lake is located approximately 41 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, within the Sierra Pelona Mountains, and north of Santa Clarita along Interstate-5 (I-5). The Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge (Tower Bridge) and the Castaic Dam High Intake Tower (High Tower) are located within the southwestern portion of the lake on Castaic Dam's right abutment. The project site can be located using the following information: Latitude 34.522414, Longitude 118.613628; USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map Name Warm Springs Mountain, Township 5 North, Range 17 West.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2020-0102-R5, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Jeanne Kuttel.

The primary purpose of the Project is to retrofit the Tower Bridge at Castaic Lake to make it more seismically safe and to screen large debris from potentially clogging the High Tower outlet tunnel. Construction will occur at the Tower Bridge, High Tower abutment, Piers 2 through 4, and Abutment 5. To access the pier footings, the lake's surface elevation would be lowered from the normal operation elevation of approximately 1,505 feet above sea level (amsl) to 1,380 feet amsl. The drawdown from 1,505 feet amsl to 1,380 feet amsl will take approximately 5 months, beginning around June 1, 2021 and reaching 1,380 feet amsl around November 1, 2021. The lake would remain at the lowered level through December 15, 2021, after which refilling of the lake would begin. The lake would return to its normal operating elevation of 1,505 feet amsl in April 2022.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above described project on 10/2/2020 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 / negative declaration 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 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 / 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 Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature _____ DocuSigned by:
Erinn Wilson-Olgin
B6E58CFE24724F5... **Date:** 10/2/2020

Erinn Wilson, Environmental Program Manager I

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____