

Notice of Exemption

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To:

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

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-054-04 ITP for the Lateral 13 Fresh Water Pipeline Replacement Project

Project Location: The Lateral 13 Fresh Water Pipeline Replacement Project is located in western Kern County, immediately southeast of the town of Valley Acres, California. The Project site primarily lies within Section 28, Township 31 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit (ITP), No. 2081-2019-054-04, to permit West Kern Water District, to incidentally take San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox, which are listed as threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The ITP authorizes take of San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), species listed as threatened pursuant to CESA for activities associated with the Lateral 13 Fresh Water Pipeline Replacement Project, including the pipeline installation, excavation, replacement, hydrotesting, and repair, and other related activities. The installation of the replacement pipeline segment will include the following general sequence of activities: site preparation, mobilization, installation/construction of erosion and dust control measures, pipeline trenching and dirt excavation, placing the pipe within the trench and anchor to the concrete thrust blocks, connecting the new pipeline to the existing pipeline, conducting hydrostatic testing to ensure pipeline integrity, installation of surface features – including air release valves, blow-off valves, and valve boxes, abandonment of the existing pipeline segment, demobilization, and site cleanup and restoration.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

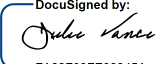
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: West Kern Water District, J.D. Bramlet, Director of Operations, P.O. Box 1105, 800 Kern Street, Taft, California 93268.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. Public Resources Code Division 13 Environmental Quality, Section 21080.21
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Craig Bailey (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Supervisor), 559-243-4014, extension 227

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____
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Date: 7/1/2020

Julie A. Vance
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: _____
Jul 02 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-054-04 Lateral 13 Fresh Water Pipeline Replacement Project

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for the installation of a new subsurface pipeline or the maintenance, repair, or replacement of an existing pipeline of less than one mile in length within a public right of way. (Public Resources Code section 21080.21(a) & (b))

The proposed Project consists of replacing an approximately 4,202-foot portion of the existing West Kern Water District's Lateral 13 freshwater pipeline with 12" diameter ductile iron Class 350 pipe. The pipeline will be placed approximately 5 feet below grade. Segments of the new ductile iron pipe will be placed into the trench and transitioned to the preceding pipe section. Following completion of laying the new pipeline, and connecting the new pipeline to the existing pipeline at each end, the pipeline will be hydrostatically tested to determine pipeline integrity prior to backfilling the trench excavation.

Project activities include site preparation, mobilization, installation/construction of erosion & dust control measures, pipeline trenching and dirt excavation, placing the pipe within the trench and anchor to the concrete thrust blocks, connecting the new pipeline to the existing pipeline, conducting hydrostatic testing to ensure pipeline integrity, installation of surface features – including air release valves, blow-off valves, and valve boxes, abandonment of the existing pipeline segment, demobilization, and site cleanup and restoration. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-054-04. Measures include: 1) permanent habitat protection; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) Compliance Reports; and 5) species relocation.