

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research <i>U.S. Mail:</i> P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 <input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of: _____ Address: _____	From: Public Agency: <u>California Department of Fish and Wildlife</u> Address: <u>3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220 Ontario, California 91764</u> Contact: <u>Magdalena Rodriguez</u> Phone: <u>909-844-2520</u> Lead Agency (if different from above): _____ Address: _____ Contact: _____ Phone: _____
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2020100076

Project Title: Arica Solar and Victory Pass Solar Projects

Project Applicant: Arica Solar, LLC and Victory Pass I, LLC

Project Location (include county): County of Riverside, east of Desert Center, California

Project Description: The Arica Solar and Victory Pass Solar Projects (collectively referred to as the Projects), as approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) with the certification of the Final EIR, consist of utility-scale solar photovoltaic electrical generating and storage facilities and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The Projects would encompass approximately 2,724 acres of a 3,800-acre site on Bureau of Land Management-administered land. The Arica Project would generate 265 megawatts (MW) and the Victory Pass Project would generate 200 MW of energy using alternating current solar photovoltaic technology. Each Project would include up to 200 MW of battery storage. The Projects are located in Riverside County, north of Interstate 10 and approximately 5.5 miles east of Desert Center. CDFW's approval of the Projects under the California Fish and Game Code includes the issuance of Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) under the California Endangered Species Act and the execution of Lake and Streambed Agreements (LSAs). CDFW has analyzed and disclosed the environmental effects of the Projects, in combination, as the "whole of the action." The LSA Numbers EPIMS-RIV-19437-R6 and EPIMS-RIV-19443-R6, for the Arica and Victory Pass Solar Projects, respectively, being issued by CDFW are conditioned on reasonable measures necessary to protect fish and wildlife subject to CDFW's regulatory jurisdiction under California Fish and Game Code Section 1600et seq. ITP Numbers 2081-2019-061-06 and 2081-2021-029-06 for the Arica and Victory Pass Solar Projects, respectively, authorize incidental take of Mojave desert tortoise subject to various conditions of approval, including a term of 5 years.

This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the above described project on December 2, 2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project. (date)

- The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
- An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
- A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
- A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
- Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, is available to the General Public at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: Regional Manager, Inland Deserts Region

Date: 12/2/2021 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____