

**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:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
**Central Region**  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710  
 Contact: Carrie Swanberg, 559-538-4110

Lead Agency

Kern County Planning Department  
 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
 Contact: Ronelle Candia, CandiaR@kerncounty.com  
 Phone: 661-862-8997

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2021010168

**Project Title:** Bellefield Solar Project by 50LW 8ME LLC (California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-037-04 (ITP)) Major Amendment No.1.

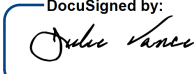
**Project Location:** The Project is located partially within the limits of California City and partially within unincorporated areas in the southern Fremont Valley, Kern County, California, north and south of State Route 58 and east and west of State Route 14.

**Project Description:** The Project includes the construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimate decommissioning of a utility-scale solar farm that will include solar arrays, collector lines, energy storage systems, substation, ancillary facilities, associated electrical infrastructure, and a 14.5-mile generation tie-in (gen-tie) transmission line. Major Amendment No.1 modifies the ITP to include use of and improvements to an off-site access road. Additionally, Major Amendment No. 1 modifies compensatory mitigation language related to a Co-Management Agreement, removes references to the Enhancement and Monitoring Plan requirements, and removes reference to the Robbers Roost location.

The Project as authorized in Major Amendment No. 1 will result in 5.19 acres of additional permanent impact to desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, which are designated as a threatened species under the CESA. 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 [ the lead agency /  a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 11/19/2024 and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

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. [ An environmental impact report /  A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
  3. Additional 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 Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
  7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
    - Payment is submitted with this notice.
    - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.
- Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: 11/19/2024

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_