

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: Jim Vang, (559) 580-3203

Lead Agency

Kern County Planning Department
 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Contact: Terrance Smalls
SmallsT@kerncounty.com
 Phone: (661) 862-8607

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2021090602

Project Title: Azalea Solar Project, by SF Azalea, LLC; Major Amendment No. 1 to the California Endangered Species Act, Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2022-037-04.

Project Location: The Project is located on a 640-acre property in an unincorporated area of northwest Kern County, immediately south of the boundary line between Kings County and Kern County. It is anticipated that all permanent impacts of the Project will occur on 395-acres, within the larger 640-acre property, and on 2.70-acres for the associated gen-tie.

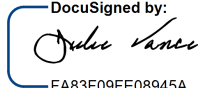
Project Description: The Project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a utility-scale solar farm that will include solar arrays, collector lines, energy storage systems, substation, ancillary facilities, and associated electrical infrastructure.

The Project will result in permanent impacts throughout the 397.7-acre Project Area to San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of San Joaquin kit fox which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in addition to giant kangaroo rat, which is designated as an endangered species under 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. Major Amendment No. 1 of the ITP allows for the option of a Designated Trapper(s)/Surveyor(s), removes San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) as a Covered Species which was inadvertently included, and extends the timeline in which security funding must be provided.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 8/26/2024 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: 8/26/2024

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____