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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Nipton Communication Site Project

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact Name: Julia Karo

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Project Location: 10 miles south of the CA-NV border, 1.25 miles southwest of I-15/Nipton Road, San Bernardino County

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The project would include construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a communication site, ancillary components, and an access road (approximately 6.13 total acres). The project components, including the access road, would occur entirely on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered land. Construction of the project is anticipated to take 4 months, and would likely occur from late 2022 to early 2023. During construction, the new portion of the access road (8,953 feet long by 14 feet wide) entering the communication site would be developed to accommodate construction equipment. The staging area would be adjacent to the I 15/Nipton Road interchange and is currently used for vehicle parking and is an already disturbed area. The direct permanent impacts of project construction would be to 5.82 acres. Upon completion of construction, temporary disturbance areas would be restored. CDFW has prepared the proposed MND under CEQA in response to InterConnect Towers, LLC's (ICT) submittal of an application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for the Mojave desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) under CESA. The ITP, if issued, would authorize project-related incidental take of Mojave desert tortoise subject to certain conditions under CESA for a period of 30 years. ICT also submitted an application to CDFW for a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA)Agreement. The LSA Agreement, if issued by CDFW subject to certain conditions, would remain in effect for 5 years or less.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Biological resources could be potentially affected by the project; however, all potential impacts would be less than significant through implementation of Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1 through MM BIO-29. The full text of the mitigation measures is included in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known areas of controversy.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6)