

Notice of Determination**Appendix D**

To:		From:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research		Public Agency:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
<i>U.S. Mail:</i>	<i>Street Address:</i>	Address:	
P.O. Box 3044	1400 Tenth St. Rm 113	3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220	
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	Sacramento, CA 95814	Ontario, California 91764	
		Contact:	Julia Karo
		Phone:	(909) 278-2950
<input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk	County of: _____	Lead Agency (if different from above):	
Address: _____		Address: _____	
		Contact: _____	
		Phone: _____	

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): 2022030712Project Title: Nipton Communication Site ProjectProject Applicant: InterConnect Towers, LLCProject Location (include county): San Bernardino County

Project Description: The Project as approved by CDFW with adoption of the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration includes construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a communication site, ancillary components, and an access road (totaling approximately 6.13 acres). The Project components, including the access road, would occur entirely on Bureau of Land Management-administered land. The Project would be a multi-tenant wireless communication facility designed to accommodate a minimum of four national carriers, as well as government agencies including police, fire, and highway patrol. The Project is within the California Desert Conservation Area Plan Utility Corridor "BB," which permits the expansion of utility facilities for the purpose of telecommunication, electricity, gas, water, and other commodities. Construction is anticipated to take 4 months, and would likely occur from late 2022 to early 2023. During construction, a new extension of the existing access road (8,953 feet long by 14 feet wide) entering the communication site would be constructed. Direct permanent impacts of Project construction would occur to 5.82 acres. Upon completion of construction, temporary disturbance areas would be restored.

CDFW's approval of the Project under the California Fish and Game Code includes the issuance to InterConnect Towers, LLC, of an incidental take permit (ITP) under the California Endangered Species Act and the execution of a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement. ITP 2081-2019-036-06 authorizes incidental take of Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) subject to various conditions of approval, which would remain in effect for 30 years. LSA Agreement 1600-2019-0199-R6 authorizes impacts to 24 drainages during construction for a term of 5 years or less.

This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the above described project on 8/9/2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.
(date) (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. 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.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. 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, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents/ContextDocs.aspx?cat=R6-Habcon>

Signature (Public Agency): Heidi Calvert Title: Regional Manager, Inland Deserts Region
Date: 8/9/2022 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____