

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
 Contact: Mindy Trask
 Phone: (559) 939-0282


Lead Agency:

California Department of Transportation
 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726
 Contact: G. William "Trais" Norris III
 Email: trais.norris@dot.ca.gov
 Phone: (209) 601-3521

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022060365

Project Title: State Route (SR) 166 Maricopa Highway Capital Preventative Maintenance Project (Project); California Endangered Species Act Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-078-04 (ITP), Amendment No. 1

Project Location: Project includes repairing and replacing culverts on SR 166 in Kern County between post mile 0.0 and post mile 10.2. The western end of the Project is in the community of Maricopa.

Project Description: The Project will repair failing drainage systems by replacing and extending 26 deteriorated culverts at 22 locations along SR 166 in Kern County to maintain the operational integrity of SR 166 and minimize maintenance worker exposure to traffic from repeated visits to repair damaged or flooded facilities. Erosion at existing slopes and swales will also be repaired, followed by preserving and resurfacing SR 166. Americans with Disabilities Act compliant crosswalks with curb ramps will be installed at the SR 33/166 intersection. Construction is anticipated to start in winter 2023 and be completed by fall 2024. Caltrans anticipates a total of 180 working days, which includes 30 nights.

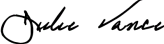
The Project will result in impacts to 1.555 acres of San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) habitat including temporary impacts to 1.553 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.002 acres of San Joaquin antelope squirrel habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of San Joaquin antelope squirrel, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP amendment referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation. Amendment No. 1 authorizes the use of a Master Funding Agreement to suffice as ITP security.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 2/29/2024 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 mitigated 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). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
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.

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- Responsible Agency statement: The Mitigated Negative Declaration 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.

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Signature: _____

Date: 2/29/2024

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____