



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
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Fresno, California 93710
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www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

December 14, 2023

December 15 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ejaz Ahmad, Planner
Fresno County, Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare Street, 6th floor
Fresno, California 93721
(559) 600-4204
eahmad@fresnocountyca.gov

**Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) No. 8077, Stamoules, Inc.
Pistachio Processing Facility Project (Project)
SCH No.: 2022070101**

Dear Ejaz Ahmad:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code.

After reviewing the provided CEQA document, CDFW concurs with the biological resources related analysis and measures proposed in the Draft EIR and recommends that all such measures in the Draft EIR be carried forward into the Final EIR. CDFW has determined that most of the biological resource mitigation measures as currently documented in the Draft EIR are sufficient for mitigation of potential project related impacts to listed species. Please note that take of any species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) would be unauthorized unless an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is acquired in advance of such actions. It is recommended to consult with CDFW before any ground disturbing activities commence and to obtain an ITP if take of CESA listed species cannot be avoided.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1.1 (Nesting Bird Surveys and Active Nest Avoidance) states that a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey no more than 15 days prior to each phase of clearing activities. CDFW recommends that this measure be updated in the Final EIR to state that pre-construction surveys for active nests be conducted no


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more than 10 days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance to maximize the probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected.

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the County of Fresno in identifying and mitigating the Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). If you have any questions, please contact Kelley Nelson, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, or by electronic mail at Kelley.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

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