

**Notice of Determination****- 1 -****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: Stephanie Manzo  
 Phone: (559) 578-0409

**Lead Agency**

Madera Water District  
 16943 Road 26, Suite 103  
 Madera, CA 93638  
 Contact: John Gies, District Manager  
 Phone: (559) 674-4944

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022090367

**Project Title:** Madera Lake Pump and Pipeline (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-068-04 (ITP))

**Project Location:** The Madera Lake Pump and Pipeline Project (Project) is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the City of Madera in unincorporated Madera County, California. It is found on the Daulton and Kismet USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles (Figure 2) in Sections 28, 33, and 34 of Township 10 South, Range 18 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

The Project will be constructed along an approximate 1.7-mile alignment that originates in Madera Lake near its western shore, traverses approximately 150 linear feet of annual grassland habitat, then continues west and north through approximately 1.6 miles of orchard land before terminating just north of the Avenue 19 ½ alignment.

**Project Description:** The proposed project includes the movement of water from Madera Irrigation District (MID) or other sources to be brought into Madera Water District (MWD) through Madera Lake. The project would entail the installation of a siphon in Madera Lake, siphon inlet channel, booster pumps, and a pipeline to obtain a flowrate of up to 8,000 gpm, with up to 6,000 gpm delivered into MWD and up to 2,000 gpm delivered to the neighboring property. The booster pump(s) will discharge into a buried plastic pipeline that passes through the orchard west of Madera Lake for about ½ mile, then turns north and follows the existing dirt farm road on the Road 29½ alignment for about 5,700 feet. The pipeline will terminate at a proposed booster pump station north of the Avenue 19 ½ alignment, which will discharge into the existing MWD distribution system near the existing Well No. 3 and associated basin. All project-related disturbances would be limited to an area of approximately 10.6 acres consisting of the temporary disturbance corridor, staging areas, equipment turnaround, and work areas associated with the sump, booster pump stations, and pipeline turnout supplying the orchard.

The Project will result in impacts to approximately 1.60 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) habitat including temporary impacts to 1.34 acres of annual grassland and 0.26 acres of a remnant vernal pool, that provide upland and aquatic habitat features. The Project will permanently remove 5 square feet of annual grassland habitat that provides California tiger salamander upland habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. 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.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as  the lead agency /  a responsible agency approved the above-described project on 5/30/2024 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.

**Notice of Determination**

- 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.
- 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.

DocuSigned by:  
*Signature* Sarah Paulson *Date: 5/30/2024*  
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for Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_