

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region (Region 4)
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Shaelyn Latronica
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Lead Agency
Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
2700 "M" Street Suite 100
Bakersfield, California 93301
Contact: Mark Tolentino Panner II
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
State Clearinghouse Number: 2022100646

Project Title: Mojave Micro Mill Project Amendment No. 1 to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 1927-ITP-2024-073-04

Project Location: The Mojave Micro Mill Project (Project) is on 174 acres located at 506 Sopp Road, within the City of Mojave, in unincorporated southeastern Kern County, California. The Project is located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 431-010-02 and 431-030-02, approximately 57 miles southeast of the City of Bakersfield, 4 miles north of the community of Rosamond, and 8 miles south of Mojave, at approximately 34.933830 latitude, -118.144760 longitude.

Project Description: The Project involves the construction of a micro mill facility and associated infrastructure necessary to produce rebar from scrap metal through various recycling processes. The development includes a micro mill facility, accessory buildings made up of 13 attached and detached buildings and eight ancillary structures, and a 63-acre accessory solar array on 174 total acres of privately owned land.

Amendment No. 1 increases the total number of western Joshua tree (WJT; *Yucca brevifolia*) for which take is authorized to 204, as determined by CDFW, makes a change to the frequency of compliance monitoring during periods of inactivity and/or when all WJT have been removed and activities encroaching upon WJT are complete, and updates Notification and Reporting Provision 5.2.

CDFW has prepared an Addendum to update the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) approved by Kern County for the Project on March 21, 2024, to analyze changes and impacts related to Amendment No. 1. The addition of these changes would not have any significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the EIR or cause a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

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The Project will result in incidental take of 204 WJT, which is protected under the WJTCA and the California Endangered Species Act. The WJTCA ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of WJT 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 the date signed below 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).
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 EIR 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 FA83F09FE08945A...

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date: 3/18/2025