

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Chris Briggs
Email: christopher.briggs@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: 909-758-6774



Lead Agency
California Department of Transportation, D8
464 W 4th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401
Contact: Adam Compton
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Phone: 909-501-5352

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022120710

Project Title: EA 1K400 Riv-15 Auxiliary Lanes Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-RIV-46909-R6)

Project Location (County of Riverside): The project is comprised of 14 project locations at Empire Creek, Waddle Wash, and unnamed tributaries to Murrieta Creek, within the City of Temecula along Interstate 15 from Post Mile (PM) 5.3 to PM 6.1, in the County of Riverside, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-RIV-46909-R6, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, the California Department of Transportation, District 8.

The project activities involve construction of auxiliary lanes on Interstate 15, resulting in temporary impacts to a total of 3.65 acres and permanent impacts to a total of 0.30 acres of Fish and Game section 1602 resources. Project activities include grading, ramp widening, bridge widening at Empire Creek, installation of trash-collection devices, culvert replacement and modification, installation of rock slope protection, and vegetation removal.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on June 28, 2024, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project 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. CDFW considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Heather Brashnar for _____ Date: 06/28/2024
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Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

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Date Received for filing at OPR: _____