

Notice of Determination

To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Enola Fulgencio
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Lead Agency
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
1315 Chaney Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Contact: Andrea Kraft
Email: akraft@evmwd.net
Phone: 951-674-3146

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023020359

Project Title: Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road and New Conduit Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-RIV-47128-R6) Amendment #1

Project Location (Riverside): The Amendment to the Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road and New Conduit Project (Project) is located along Rice Canyon Creek, west of Interstate 15 and Lincoln St., east of Trabuco Peak, north of California State Route (SR) 74 Ortega Highway, and south of Bishop Canyon, in the City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside, State of California and is located at Latitude 33.697763 and Longitude -117.410500 within Township 6 South and Range 3 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5" Alberhill quadrangle map (Exhibit 1A and 1B). The Project site consists of Assessor Parcel Number 394-140-003.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed an amendment to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-RIV-47128-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

The Project is limited to access road and electrical conduit enhancements along Rice Canyon Creek. The Project will replace existing electrical conduits located within the access road, reconstruct three existing concrete low water crossings, clear nearby vegetation for improved accessibility, regrade and compact access roads, and construct earthen drainage swales for ditches present in the Project area. Additionally, the three concrete low water crossings mentioned previously will receive yearly maintenance under this Agreement. The Amendment updates the acreage of offsite mitigation from 2.43 to 2.38 acres.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the amended project described above on January 10, 2025, 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** 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.

Notice of Determination

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:
Kim Freeburn
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Signature: _____ Date: 1/10/2025

Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____