

## Notice of Determination

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**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:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 94560  
Contact: Magdalena Rodriguez  
Phone: (909) 844-2520

Lead Agency  
Riverside County  
77588 El Duna Ct Ste. H  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
Contact: Jay Olivas  
Phone(760) 863-8277

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

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2011054002

**Project Title:** Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2017-0165-R6 (Revision 2)

**Project Location:** The Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project (Project) is located entirely on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in unincorporated Riverside County, California. (Fig 1) The Project is located approximately ten miles east of the unincorporated community of Desert Center just north of Interstate (I-10), halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe. It is located at Latitude: N 33.70° and Longitude: W -115.22° (NAD 83 or WGS 84).

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2017-0165-R6 (Revision 2), pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Palen Solar Holdings, LLC.

This proposed project will be a 500-megawatt (MW) nominal capacity, AC solar photovoltaic (PV) energy-generating facility and will cover approximately 3,140 acres. They will use a single-axis tracking system (rotating east to west) and may use a variety of PV technologies, including, but not limited to Crystalline Silicon panels or copper Indium Gallium Selenide panels. Alternative 1 will have its solar arrays configured into two separate fields to avoid the desert wash woodland located in the center of the ROW with each solar field fenced separately with an onsite substation in the northern section of the west array field. A 6.9-mile-long generation tie-line will be constructed to deliver the electricity produced to the Red Bluff Substation. The construction of the project will result in impacts to jurisdictional areas within the channels crossed along the generation tie-line, the three access roads crossing the large central wash, and all the small ephemeral streams within the two solar array fields. This will result in permanent impacts to a total of 326.3 acres of state jurisdictional resources.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above described project on March/13/2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

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. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. 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 California Code of Regulations section 15091.

**Notice of Determination**

The final environmental impact report 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 Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

*Scott Wilson*

Date: *3/14/2019*

Scot Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE