

Notice of Determination

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
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Dr. Shankar Sharma
Phone: 909-228-3692



Lead Agency
City of Desert Hot Springs
65950 Pierson Blvd
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
Contact: Mr. Scott Taschner
Phone: 760-329-6411

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2005101120

Project Title: Desert Hot Springs Wind Energy Repowering Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0147-R6)

Project Location (include county): The project is located within Section 31 of Township 2 South, Range 4 East, Section 6 of Township 3 South, Range 4 East, and Section 1 of Township 3 South, Range 3 East in the City of Desert Hot Springs and portions of unincorporated Riverside County, California, as shown on the Desert Hot Springs, California and Whitewater, California 7.5-minute series United States Geological Survey topographic maps. The Project lies within the boundaries of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan area, and is situated at north of Interstate 10, east of State Route 62, and west of Whitewater Canyon between Whitewater and Painted Hills communities.

Project Description: The project proposes to decommission and remove old wind turbines and install new turbines with generating capacity from 2 to 4.2 megawatts. The interrelated activities will include installation of meteorological towers, construction of pads, roads and electrical collection systems, integration of the wind turbines to the electrical grid, and decommissioning of the turbines at the end of their life cycle. The interrelated project activities will include decommissioning of existing wind turbines and ancillary equipment, and various construction activities including underground collection lines, access roads between turbines, improvements to existing private roadways, temporary on-site laydown and parking area, installation meteorological towers, and decommissioning of the turbines at the end of their life cycle. The construction work will require standard equipment including a crane, haul trucks, excavators, scrapers, and graders.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project on January 14, 2020 and 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 environmental impact report / 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 / 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 not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

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

Signature Scott Wilson

Date 1/14/2020

Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____