

**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 (CDFW)  
 Central Region (Region 4)  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue  
 Fresno, CA 93710  
 Contact: Benessa Galvan (559) 243-4014, ext. 225

Lead Agency  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 505 Van Ness Avenue  
 San Francisco, CA 94102  
 Contact: Jensen Uchida (415) 896-0332

**Subject:** *Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108*  
 State Clearinghouse Number: 2008081090

**Project Title:** *San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Line Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-050-04 (ITP) Minor Amendment No. 4)*

**Project Location:** The 23-mile long L-shaped route of the new transmission line consists of: a 10.8-mile north-south trending segment constructed within the county Road 148 right-of-way between the existing Rector substation and a point approximately ¼-mile south of Cottonwood Creek; and a 12.2-mile east-west trending segment extending from that point, easterly across privately held cropland, skirting the north flank of Colvin Mountain, and traversing natural grasslands where it intersects and connects to the existing Big Creek 3-Springville transmission line. The Project is located entirely in **Tulare County**.

**Project Description:** This Project involves the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 23-mile long double-circuit 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission line looping the existing Big Creek 3-Springville transmission line to the existing Rector substation, creating the new Big Creek 3-Rector and Rector-Springville transmission line circuits. The construction phase of the Project was to result in impacts to 98.30 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) habitat including temporary impacts to 52.62 acres and the permanent loss of 45.68 acres of California tiger salamander habitat. The Project was expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

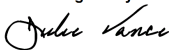
The construction phase of Project was completed in late-2014 and the Minor Amendment No. 4 (Amendment) includes two changes to the ITP as originally issued: an extension of the time allowed for the mitigation obligation to be fulfilled, and change of CDFW contact information.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [ the lead agency /  a responsible agency] approved the above-described Project on 7/8/2020 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 negative declaration] was prepared for the Project pursuant to CEQA.
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 environmental impact report prepared and certified 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... **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

Date: 7/8/2020

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

**Jul 08 2020**

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

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**