

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****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
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710
 Contact: Annee Ferranti
 Phone: (559) 243-4005, ext. 221

Lead Agency
 Monterey County
 168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
 Salinas, California 93901
 Contact: John Ford
 Phone: (831) 755-5158

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2013041031

Project Title: California Flats Solar Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2015-027-04, Amendment No. 6, a major amendment.

Project Location: The Project is located north of the intersection of State Route (SR) 41 and SR 46 and northeast of Cholame Valley Road, approximately 25 miles northeast of the City of Paso Robles, in unincorporated Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

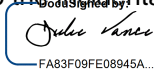
Project Description: The Project involves the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a 280-megawatt solar power generating facility on approximately 2,367 acres of undeveloped grassland. The Project is composed of four main components: solar development areas, a transmission line corridor, an access road, and a utility corridor.

The Project is expected to result in incidental take of San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) and California tiger salamander (CTS), which are designated as threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of the two species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation, including temporary impacts to 214.57 acres and permanent impacts to 2,156.6 acres of SJKF and CTS habitat. Amendment No. 6 modifies the Project Description to include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and transmission line from the BESS to the substation modification area; and allows for an increase of permanently disturbed acreage of 2.6 acres as a result of the BESS and modified substation construction, and a permanent impact of 0.001-acre (48 square feet) and a temporary impact of 1.57 acres (68,568 square feet) as a result of the construction of the transmission line from the BESS to the substation modification area.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 2/11/2021 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 by the lead agency for the original project.
 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 EIR prepared 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.

Signature



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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date: 2/11/2021

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____