

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)
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
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Mindy Trask
Phone: (559) 939-0282



Lead Agency:

California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Contact: Shelby Sanchez
Email: shelby.sanchez@dot.ca.gov
Phone: (805) 459-9345

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2002091009

Project Title: San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project (Project); California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2015-057-04 (ITP), Amendment No. 2

Project Location: The Project is located in San Benito County on State Route (SR) 156 between Post Mile (PM) 3.0 near the City of San Juan Bautista and PM 8.2 west of the City of Hollister

Project Description: The Project involves converting the existing 2-lane conventional highway into a 4-lane, divided, controlled-access expressway including placing an asphalt concrete overlay, flattening cut slopes, widening fill slopes, overpass intersections and widening paved shoulders to 5-foot inside and 10-foot outside.

The Project is expected to result in the permanent development of 8.36 acres of upland habitat and temporary impacts to 9.62 acres of upland habitat resulting in a total disturbance of 17.98 acres of California tiger salamander upland habitat. The Project may result in incidental take of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. Amendment No. 2 referenced above authorizes a two-year extension of the ITP expiration date, from December 31, 2023 to December 30, 2025, and adds protective measures for the removal of exclusionary fencing after construction. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 1/10/2024 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). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
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.

Notice of Determination

- Responsible Agency statement: The Supplemental Environmental Impact Report 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  FA03F09FE00945A... *Date:* 1/10/2024

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____