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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Meridian Farms Water Company
1138 4th Street
Meridian, CA 95957
Andy Duffey, General Manager
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(530) 696-2456

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2012082032

Project Title: Meridian Farms Water Company Fish Screen Project – Phase 2 (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081(b)-2022-069-02 (ITP))

Project Location: The Meridian Farms Water Company Fish Screen Project – Phase 2 (Project) is located between Interstate 5 and Highway 99, east of the Sacramento River and southwest of the Sutter Bypass within the town of Meridian in Sutter County, California. The Project is located on the Sacramento River, north of the intersection of Meridian Road and Alameda Street, at approximately latitude 39.0854 to 39.0633, longitude -121.5503 to -121.5352 within the Meridian and Grimes United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7 ½ minute quadrangles.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an amended ITP (No. 2081(b)-2022-069-02), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to Meridian Farms Water Company.

The Project is amended to include the construction of crane operation benches on the existing levee for access and operation for the construction of a new Meridian Diversion/Pumping Station and retractable drum fish screens and a new re-lift pumping station to deliver flows to the Drexler service area. The Project is the second phase of the Meridian Farms Fish Screen Project to improve three unscreened diversion facilities by consolidating the Meridian and Drexler diversions into a new diversion equipped with fish screens in order to prevent entrainment of anadromous fish.

The Project will result in impacts to 6.4 acre of giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) habitat including temporary impacts to 6.4 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.05 acre of giant garter snake habitat. The Project will also result in temporary impacts to 0.17 acre of suitable salmonid habitat of spring-run Chinook salmon of the Sacramento River drainage (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). The project is expected to result in incidental take of giant garter snake and spring-run Chinook salmon of the Sacramento River drainage, which are designated as threatened species and winter-run Chinook salmon, which is

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designated as an endangered species, under the California Endangered Species Act. 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 a Lead Agency, approved the project described above on the date signed below, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

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. A mitigated negative declaration was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings 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:

The mitigated negative declaration prepared by CDFW for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for CDFW. 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:
Morgan Kilgour
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Signature: _____ *Date:* 8/18/2026

Morgan Kilgour, Regional Manager