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To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
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Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Alya Wakeman-Hill
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Lead Agency
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Contact email: planning@kerncounty.com
Phone: 661-862-8600

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2010031034

Project Title: Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project (Project) (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2014-060-04, Minor Amendment No. 8 (ITP as amended).

Project Location (Kern County): The Project is located on 3,856.1 acres of land located on the north and south sides of South Lake Road, east of Gardner Field Road and northeast of Copus Road and Schallock Road, approximately 5 miles west of the City of Taft in an unincorporated area of southwestern Kern County, California.

Project Description: The Project, as permitted by CDFW, involves the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a 3,856.1 acre photovoltaic solar facility and associated on-site distribution lines, as well as the permanent conservation of 5,692.6 acres of on-site and nearby off-site lands.

The Project will result in permanent impacts to 3,798.2 acres of San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*) (collectively, Covered Species) habitat and temporary impacts to 81.9 acres of utility and railroad easements. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of San Joaquin kit fox and San Joaquin antelope squirrel, which are designated as threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Tipton kangaroo rat, which is designated as an endangered species under CESA. The ITP as amended, authorizes incidental take of the Covered Species that may occur as a result of Project implementation. Minor Amendment No. 8 amends several Conditions of Approval to clarify duties of the Designated Biologist(s), updates contact information, extends the timeframe for completing certain mitigation requirements, and revises with minor formatting changes.

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This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on 9/24/2026 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. An environmental impact report **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** 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: **A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.**

The 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: DocuSigned by: Julie Vance FA83E09EE08945A... *Date:* 9/24/2026

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager