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Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Stephanie Manzo
Phone: (559) 243-4005
Email: R4CESA@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency:
San Benito County Water District
30 Mansfield Road
Hollister, CA 95023
Contact: Dana Jacobson
Phone: (831) 637-8218
Email: djacobson@sbcwd.com

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
State Clearinghouse Number: 2012081028

Project Title: West Hills Water Treatment Plan Expansion (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-024-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The West Hills Water Treatment Plant Expansion (Project) is located at the West Hills Water Treatment Plant (WHWTP) in an unincorporated area of San Benito County, approximately one mile west of the City of Hollister in the hills north of Union Road. The Project is located at approximately 36.841108, -121.433137 (WHWTP site), and at approximately 36.834291, -121.438953 (raw water pump station).

Project Description: The Project involves the expansion of the WHWTP from a capacity of 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to a capacity of 6.75 MGD by adding several new facilities within the WHWTP site and raw water pump station. The Project will result in impacts to 0.49 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) habitat including temporary impacts to 0.42 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.07 acres of California tiger salamander habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). 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 8/28/2025 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.

DocuSigned by:
Signature Julie Vance FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 8/28/2025

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____