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To:
☒ Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Javier Mendez
Phone: 559-903-5026

Lead Agency
California High Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, California 95814
Contact: Stefan Galvez-Abadia.

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
State Clearinghouse Number: 2009091125

Project Title: California High Speed Train Project: Merced to Fresno Major Amendment No. 22 (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-025-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Project includes the California High Speed Train (HST) alignment beginning at the intersection of Avenue 19 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, in the City of Madera, Madera County, California. From this intersection, the Merced to Fresno HST alignment continues south along the west side of the BNSF Railway until south of Avenue 15, where the alignment transitions westward toward the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). Near Avenue 9, the alignment follows along the east side of the UPRR, before crossing the San Joaquin River and entering the City of Fresno, Fresno County, California. The Project ends south of State Route 41, adjacent to Los Angeles Street in the City of Fresno.

Project Description: The Project includes construction and operation of the Merced to Fresno segment of the HST. The Project is expected to result in impacts to California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense,* CTS), Swainson's hawk *(Buteo swainsoni,* SWHA*),* San Joaquin kit fo*x* (*Vulpes macrotis mutica,* SJKF*),* and hairy Orcutt grass *(Orcuttia pilosa*, HaOrGr*)* (collectively, the Covered Species). CTS, SWHA, and SJKF are species designated as threatened and HaOrGr is designated as endangered under CESA. Major Amendment No. 22 increases the Project footprint by 1.29 acres.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 10/16/2025 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/EIS and Addendum 2013-1 and 2013-2 prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead

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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 FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 10/16/2025

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____