

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(CDFW Central Region)
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Javier Mendez
(559) 903-5026
Email: Javier.Mendez@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
California High Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Stefan Galvez-Abadia
(916) 908-1184

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2009091125

Project Title: CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT MERCED TO MADERA SEGMENT (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081(b)-2026-019-04 (ITP))

Project Location (Merced, Madera): The California High-Speed Rail Project – Merced to Madera Section (Project) begins at Gerard Avenue within the City of Merced in Merced County, and continues southeast approximately 31 miles ending at Avenue 19 in Madera County where it connects to the existing Construction Package 1D near Madera Acres. The Project's northern boundary is at approximately 37.280439, -120.448887, and the Project's southern boundary is at approximately 37.025529, -120.079569.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 2081(b)-2026-019-04), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

The Project involves vegetation removal, subsurface geotechnical investigations and existing utility location activities.

The Project will result in impacts to 10.83 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) 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 a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on 5/8/2026 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 California High-Speed Rail Authority 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:
Sarah Paulson
E9964E60293D40A...
Signature: _____ Date: 5/8/2026

FOR Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager