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Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region 6
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard
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Lead Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2010061062

Project Title: Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Pupfish Connectivity Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-IMP-55032-R6)

Project Location: The Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) East Pond Expansion Project (Project) is located at the southern end of the Salton Sea near the mouth of the New River, in the County of Imperial, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-IMP-55032-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, the California Department of Water Resources.

The project is limited to the construction of the following elements to the south of the existing Species Conservation Habitat Project ("original SCH Project"), which is permitted under Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) #1600-2016-0141-R6: A 4500-foot-long realignment of the West Interception Ditch; a 1500-foot-long High Flow Bypass channel; temporary crossings at various points along drains for heavy equipment access during construction; Maintenance features for long term maintenance of the habitat, including a maintenance access road, turnaround improvements, dedicated spoils areas, and ## permanent culvert crossing(s) in channels where desert pupfish have not historically occurred or where annual surveys have failed to detect desert pupfish in the last twenty years. The Project will provide feeding, resting, and breeding habitat for birds and fish including habitat for the federally- and state-endangered desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), improve connectivity between desert pupfish populations, and create features necessary for long-term maintenance of the habitat.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on October 28, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

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. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. 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 California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Final EIR prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Tonya Marshall E72B3366169341C... *Date:* 10/28/2025

Tonya Marshall, Salton Sea Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____