

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****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: Sarah Bahm, 559-580-3195
Sarah.Bahm@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 Contact: Jane Hauptman, 213-367-4211
Jane.Hauptman@ladwp.com

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2008041038

Project Title: California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Amended Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2021-049-04 (Amendment No. 1) for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Barren Ridge-Haskell Transmission Line 1 Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located west of State Highway 14 from the existing Barren Ridge Switching Station (BRSS) located approximately 8.5 miles northwest of the California City and extends in a generally southwest direction for approximately 62 miles and ending approximately 4.0 miles north of the City of Santa Clarita, California. This ITP covers only the Kern County portion of the Project.

Project Description: CDFW has issued a CESA (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) ITP and this Amended ITP (Minor Amendment No. 1) to authorize LADWP to incidentally take desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) which are listed as threatened under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(4)(A) and (b)(6)(A), respectively) and western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) which is a candidate species under Fish and Game Code section 2068.

The Project includes the modification of the existing 230kV Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Line along the 34-mile section within Kern County. Construction activities include improvement along existing access roads, establishing work areas and ancillary sites to support construction activities, removal of existing transmission structures and footings, construction of new transmission structure footings and erection of new transmission structures – including stringing towers, and restoration of temporary disturbance areas used exclusively for removal and installation of transmission structures.

This Amended ITP (Minor Amendment No. 1) amends the original ITP issued on June 30, 2023, to include an extension of the expiration date of two years to allow for completion of remaining Project activities, including site close out activities, and to extend the date in which the compensatory mitigation obligations are to be completed. The resulting impacts of the Project to the Covered Species remain the same.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 7/1/2025 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).

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- 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:
Julie Vance
 Signature _____ Date: 7/1/2025

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Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____