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Notice of Determination

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

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Region 4 Central
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Grant Piepkorn
Phone: (559) 807-1459

Lead Agency
California Department of Transportation
2015 Shields Ave, Suite A-100
Fresno, CA 93726
Contact: Javier Almaguer
Phone: (559) 445-6456

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2020059031

Project Title: State Route 58 Reward Capital Preventative Maintenance Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-044-04 (ITP) Amendment No.1.

Project Location: The Project involves improvements to a 9.4-mile segment of SR 58, between post mile 6.0 and post mile 15.4 west of the community of McKittrick, in Kern County.

Project Description: In general, the Project will include: resurfacing the two-lane roadway, upgrading existing and installing new road signs, installing a new traffic count station, replenishing the gravel covering the 3-foot wide shoulder backing adjoining both lanes, and work to replace/rehabilitate eight culverts along the 9.4-mile Project Area. The Project could result in take of San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), including mortality ("kill"), due to vehicle strikes, destruction of burrows, or temporary disturbance to habitat resulting in the loss of individuals over the five-year term of the ITP. Both San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox are listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. Permittee will mitigate through permanent protection of and management in perpetuity for 1-acre of compensatory habitat for Covered Species OR purchase of a single San Joaquin kit fox/San Joaquin antelope squirrel credit from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank. Amendment No. 1 extends the mitigation date by 66 months to September 29, 2026, and the permit expiration date to December 31, 2026, to allow enough time for the Permittee to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirement.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 10/14/2025 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 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 not made/ ☐ were made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
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 IS/MND 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:* 10/14/2025
Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____