

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)**From:**Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Region 4
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Jim Vang, Senior Environmental Scientist
(Specialist)
Phone: (559) 580-3203City of Taft
209 East Kern Street
Taft, California 93268
Contact: Mark Staples
Phone: (661) 763-1222 ext. 124
mstaples@cityoftaft.org**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2020060327

Project Title: Gas Company Road Solar Energy Storage Project (California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-053-04 (ITP) Major Amendment No. 1)**Project Location:** The Project is located within the city limits of Taft, Kern County, at Airport Road between East Ash Street and East Cedar Street/Gas Company Road.**Project Description:** The Project includes construction and operation of an up to eight (8) megawatt alternating current crystalline solar photovoltaic energy generation facility, power conversion system, and battery energy storage system. Major Amendment No. 1 authorizes take of the CESA candidate species western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) during the construction, operations, and maintenance of the Project.

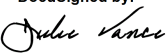
The Project will permanently impact up to 36.78 acres of giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), Temblor legless lizard (*Anniella alexanderae*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of giant kangaroo rat, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, San Joaquin kit fox, Temblor legless lizard, and western burrowing owl which are designated as endangered, threatened, and candidate species under the 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 ☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on _____ 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). 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.

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- ☒ Responsible Agency statement: The Mitigated Negative Declaration 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

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Date: 1/22/2026

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____