Docusign Envelope ID: 89C76844-443E-4C69-92F2-60080663E3A3

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Jim Vang
Phone: (559) 580-3203
Email: Jim.Vang@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Contact: Ronelle Candia
Phone: 661-862-8997
Email: CandiaR@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108
State Clearinghouse Number: 2021020513

Project Title: Aratina 1 Solar Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-022-04 (ITP)); Major Amendment No. 2

Project Location: The Project is generally located within an unincorporated area in the southeastern corner of Kern County, south and west of the unincorporated community of Boron.

Project Description: The Project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a photovoltaic solar facility that will include service roads, photovoltaic panels supported on solar trackers, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, electrical switchyards, substations, battery energy storage system, weather stations and operations and maintenance facilities.

The Project will result in permanent impacts throughout the 1,376-acre Project area of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizzii*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and western burrowing owl; the former two species are designated as endangered and threatened species, respectively, and the latter species is designated as a candidate for listing, under the California Endangered Species Act. 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. Major Amendment No. 2 modifies the Permittee list and adds take coverage for western burrowing owl.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 10/29/2025 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 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).

Docusign Envelope ID: 89C76844-443E-4C69-92F2-60080663E3A3

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:
Krista Tomlinson
12950B95267A4F5...

Signature _____ *Date:* 10/29/2025

FOR Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____