

**Notice of Determination****- 1 -****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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 3

**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.

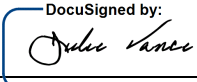
The Project will result in permanent impacts throughout the 1,376-acre Project area of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), and western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, western burrowing owl, and western Joshua tree; the former two species are designated as endangered and threatened species, respectively, and the latter two species are designated as candidates 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. 3 adds all western Joshua tree (including seedbank, dead, newly germinated, and/or resprouted individuals) as a Covered Species to the ITP.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [ the lead agency /  a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 4/3/2026 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.

**Notice of Determination**

- 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.

*Signature*  *Date:* 4/3/2026  
FA83F09FE08945A  
Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_