

**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:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
 Region 4 – Central Region  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue  
 Contact: Jim Vang, Senior Environmental Scientist  
 (Specialist)  
 Phone: (559) 580-3203

Lead Agency  
 Merced County  
 Community and Economic Development Department  
 2222 M Street  
 Merced, California 95340  
 Contact: Tiffany Ho  
 Phone: (209) 385-7654 ext. 4407

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108**  
 State Clearinghouse Number: 2021080196

**Project Title:** Las Camas Solar Facility Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-008-04 (ITP) – Major Amendment No. 1)

**Project Location:** The Project is located in western Merced County, approximately three miles south of Santa Nella, California, and is bordered by State Route (SR) 33/SR 152 to the north, Interstate 5 to the east, the CDFW owned Jasper Sears Mitigation Parcels to the west, and privately owned farmland and the Billy Wright Landfill to the south and west.

**Project Description:** The Project includes the construction and operation of a 200-mega-watt (MW) alternating current (AC) ground-mounted solar photovoltaic power plant. The Project will include access roads, solar PV panels, single-axis trackers, direct current to AC power collection wires and electrical inverters, lithium-ion battery energy storage system, battery enclosures, a solar project substation, and a supervisory control and data acquisition system. Amendment No. 1 adds features including vegetative screening and fire breaks, removes the 230 kV generation tie line, and modifies the design placement of the solar arrays.

The Project is expected to result in incidental take of the State threatened San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), the State threatened Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and the State candidate western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) (collectively the Covered Species) which are protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Project is expected to cause impacts to 1,269 acres of upland grassland habitat which provides moderately suitable habitat for the Covered Species.

The Permittee will permanently conserve 2,048 acres of high quality occupied Covered Species habitat that will include a monitoring program and an adaptive management plan, approved by CDFW to fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take of the species.

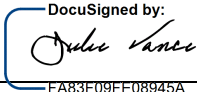
The ITP referenced above as reissued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

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).
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):

**Notice of Determination**

- 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*  FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 5/20/2026

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

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