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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)
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Ave. Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Grant Piepkorn
Phone: (559) 807-1459
Email: grant.piepkorn@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
California Department of Transportation, District 5
50 South Higuera Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Contact: Amy Millan
Phone: (805) 441-4160
Email: amy.millan@dot.ca.gov

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022010336

Project Title: State Route 68 Drainage Improvements Project (Project) (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2023-0048-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Project is located on State Route (SR) 68 between post mile (PM) 6.32 and PM 15.65 in Monterey County.

Project Description: The Project includes the replacement of seven culverts; installation of new flared end sections, headwalls, and rock slope protection; electric system upgrades; equipment access and staging; vegetation trimming and removal; and temporary stream diversion and dewatering.

The Project is expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense; CTS*), which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Project is expected to result in approximately 0.09 acre of permanent loss of upland habitat, 0.0003 acre of permanent loss of breeding habitat, 0.76 acre of long-term impacts to upland habitat, 0.47 acre of temporary impacts to upland habitat, and 0.023 acre of temporary impacts to breeding habitat for CTS. 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 6/11/2025 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). 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 Initial Study/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 Julie Vance FA83F09FE089454... *Date:* 6/11/2025

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____