

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Sarah Bahm
Email: Sarah.Bahm@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94326
Contact: Shelly Amrhein; Philip Meyer
Email: Rochelle.Amrhein@water.ca.gov;
Philip.Myer@water.ca.gov

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

State Clearinghouse Numbers: 2022030757 and 2024060966

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 230.6 To 231.4 Study Design Repair Project (Project) (California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2024-013-04)

Project Location: The Project is located approximately four miles south of community of Buttonwillow in Kern County, California; specifically within the Elk Hills East United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map from Township 30 South, Range 23 East, Sections 1 and 12, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM) at latitude 35.341474°N and longitude -119.453359°W to Township 30 South, Range 24 East, Section 7, MDBM at latitude 35.339135°N and longitude -119.445866°W.

Project Description: DWR's proposed project involves modifications to State Water Project infrastructure to investigate, design, and repair the California Aqueduct between Milepost 230.6 and 231.44 to address the unstable soils in the area and secure the surrounding infrastructure. The Project includes the following components: geotechnical investigations, embankment reinforcement and restoration, liner repair and raise, and monitoring well station installation.

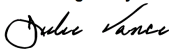
The project is expected to result in incidental take of giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*) which are designated as endangered under CESA, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), which are designated as threatened under CESA. Collectively, these are the Covered Species for this ITP. The Project will result in impacts to 14.79 acres of Covered Species habitat, including permanent impacts to 0.13 acre and temporary impacts to 14.66 acres. 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 a responsible agency, approved the above-described project on the date signed below 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 / ☒ Negative declarations were prepared by the lead agency for the original projects.
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 Negative Declarations prepared by the lead agency for the Projects are 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

DocuSigned by:



Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date: 12/9/2025

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____