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Notice of Determination

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, CA 93710
Contact: Craig Bailey
Phone: (559) 999-7349
Email: Craig.Bailey@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
Stanislaus County Public Works
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358
Contact: Chuck Covolo
Phone: (209) 525-4101
Email: covoloc@stancounty.com

SUBJECT: ***Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108***
State Clearinghouse Number: 2022050355

Project Title: Pioneer Avenue over Lone Tree Creek Bridge Replacement Project (Project) (Reissued California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2024-006-04)

Project Location: The Project is located at Lone Tree Creek at the intersection of Pioneer Avenue and Freelove Avenue, approximately 100 feet south of Freelove Avenue and south of the town of Valley Home, in Stanislaus County, California (37°49'11.63" N, 120°54'53.02" W).

Project Description: The Project involves demolishing the existing two-lane Pioneer Avenue over Lone Tree Creek Bridge (Bridge No. 38C0262) and replacing it with a new bridge. The Project will result in permanent and temporary impacts to 0.05 acre and 2.139 acre, respectively, of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*; CTS) habitat. Project activities are expected to result in incidental take of CTS which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as reissued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of the Project. The ITP is being reissued to resolve differences between the ITP and the Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP).

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ 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 / ☒ 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.

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☒ Responsible Agency statement: The Mitigated 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.

Signature DocuSigned by: Krista Tomlinson 12950B95267A4F5... *Date:* 10/29/2025

for Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____