NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Region 4 Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Mindy Trask
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Phone: (559) 939-0282

Lead Agency:
California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Contact: Shane Gunn
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Phone: (559) 832-0051

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023020102

Project Title: Fresno 168 Culvert Rehabilitation Project (Project) (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-052-04 (ITP) Amendment No. 1).

Project Location: The Project is located at 122 discrete culvert locations within a 30-miles section of State Route 168 between post miles 15.40 and 45.8 in Fresno County.

Project Description: The Project involves replacement and rehabilitation of 134 existing culverts. The Project will involve creating new drainage inlet and outlet structures and placing rock slope protection. The Project is expected to result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.04 acres and temporary disturbance to approximately 8.29 acres of potential foraging and nesting habitat for Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*, CBB), in the permanent loss of approximately 0.017 acres and temporary disturbance to approximately 1.19 acres of upland habitat for California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*, CTS), and in the permanent loss of up to 0.174 acres and temporary disturbance of up to 0.087 acres of tree anemone (*Carpenteria californica*, TRAN). CBB is designated as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). and CTS and TRAN are designated as threatened species under CESA. 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. Amendment No. 1 extends the time frame for completion of the Habitat Management Land Acquisition.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a responsible agency approved the above-described project on 10/8/2026 and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project **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. A mitigated negative declaration was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings **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: A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.

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: Julie Vance FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 10/8/2026

Julie A. Vance*, Regional Manager*