

Notice of Determination

To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
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Ontario, CA 91764
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023120696

Project Title: Lugo-Victorville 500 KV Transmission Line Remedial Action Scheme Project (California Endangered Species Act Major Amendment to Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-055-R6 (ITP))

Project Location: The Project is located within a 114-mile section of the Eldorado-Lugo 500 kV line utility corridor starting at Southern California Edison's Gale Substation in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California (approximately 1 mile east of Daggett), through SCE's Pisgah Substation (immediately north of Interstate 40 (I-40), approximately 13 miles northwest of Ludlow, California, and ending near Nevada State Route 164 in Clark County, Nevada at transmission tower M152-T2.

Project Description: This proposed project involves the installation of a new telecommunication path in the existing utility corridor, including the replacement of overhead ground wire (OHGW), optical fiber nonconducting riser (OFNR) cable, and/or all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) fiber-optic cable between the existing Eldorado Substation in Nevada, and Cima, Pisgah, and Gale Substations in California to prevent thermal overloading of the existing Lugo-Victorville 500kV Transmission Line.

The Project will result in impacts to 174.3 acres of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), 31.72 acres of gilded flicker (*Colaptes auratus chrysoides*), and up to 30 acres of Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of desert tortoise, gilded flicker, and burrowing owl, which are designated as a threatened species for desert tortoise, an endangered species for gilded flicker, and a candidate species for burrowing owl under the California Endangered Species Act. The major amendment to 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, approved the project described above on 5/13/2025, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

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 **Negative Declaration** was prepared by CDFW for this project.
3. 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..

DocuSigned by:
 Signature: Heidi Calver Date: 5/13/2025
 Heidi Calver, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at LCI: