NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Jackson Powell
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Lead Agency
Fresno Irrigation District
2907 South Maple Avenue
Fresno, California 93725
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Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024061125

Project Title: Turnout on the Friant-Kern Canal at Big Dry Creek Project (California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-067-04 (ITP), Amendment No. 1)

Project Location: The Project is located where the Friant Kern Canal intersects with Big Dry Creek within the County of Fresno, approximately 1.6 miles east of the City of Clovis; southwest portion of Section 20, Township 12 South, Range 22 East Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian; Round Mountain U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 quadrangle; and approximate Latitude 36.869660, Longitude -119.596751.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an amended ITP (No. 2081-2024-067-04), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to the Fresno Irrigation District (FID).

The Project includes the construction of a new water diversion facility (turnout) and associated infrastructure at the Friant-Kern Canal to divert water from the Friant-Kern Canal into Big Dry Creek for groundwater recharge. Amendment No. 1 adds western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*) as a Covered Species, reduces the Project Area, reduces the corresponding amount of compensatory mitigation for California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), adds nightwork, and extends the expiration date of the ITP.

The Project will result in impacts to 2.74 acres of California tiger salamander habitat including temporary impacts to 2.61 acres and the permanent removal of 0.13 acres of grassland upland habitat. The Project will result in impacts to 3.24 acres of western spadefoot habitat including temporary impacts to 3.08 acres and the permanent removal of 0.13 acres of grassland upland habitat and 0.16 acres of upland stream habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander which is

designated as a threatened species under CESA and western spadefoot which is a state candidate pursuant to 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.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on the date signed below and has 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 FID for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for FID. 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:* 10/22/2026

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager