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To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Scott Jakubowski
Phone: (909) 354-0919
Email: scott.jakubowski@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency
Land Use Services Planning Division
385 N. Arrowhead
San Bernardino, CA 92415
Contact: Derek Newland
Phone: (909) 387-8311
Email: derek.newland@lus.sbcounty.gov

SUBJECT: ***Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108***
State Clearinghouse Number: 2025090950

Project Title: Aggregate Loading Facility and Rail Loop Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-035-06 (ITP))

Project Location (San Bernardino): The Aggregate Loading Facility and Rail Loop Project (Project) is located at 1880 Santa Fe Road within the City of Hinkley, San Bernardino County. The Project is located approximately three miles west of the town of Hinkley in the southwest ¼ of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 4 West, on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 0496-011-07-000 and 496-14-101-0000. The Project site is bounded by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) main rail line to the south, intersects with Santa Fe Road, and is bounded by Lynx Cat Road to the north.

Project Description: This proposed Project involves the development of 121.5 acres of undeveloped land into an aggregate loading facility and rail loop. Project activities include grubbing and grading of the entire Project site, trench digging, excavation, loading and stockpiling, railway construction and alignment, road construction and maintenance, road relocation, fencing and other activities. The haul road to the main quarry will be used to transfer materials to and from the loading facility. A "Y"-track is also being developed to transport materials to the rail line.

The Project will result in impacts to, and permanently remove, 121.5 acres of Agassiz's Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavenis*) habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of Agassiz's Desert tortoise, which is designated as an endangered species, and Mohave ground squirrel, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. 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.

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This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described Project on February 11, 2026 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.

☒ 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: Heidi Calvert CAEE4779B63E4A3... *Date:* 2/11/2026

Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____