To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
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(CDFW) Central Region
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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2008081090

Project Title: San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Line Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-050-04 (ITP) Minor Amendment No. 7)

Project Location: The 23-mile long L-shaped route of the new transmission line consists of: a 10.8-mile north-south trending segment constructed within the county Road 148 right-of-way between the existing Rector substation and a point approximately ¼ mile south of Cottonwood Creek; and a 12.2-mile east-west trending segment extending from that point, easterly across privately held cropland, skirting the north flank of Colvin Mountain, and traversing natural grasslands where it intersects and connects to the existing Big Creek 3-Springville transmission line. The Project is located entirely in Tulare County.

Project Description: The ITP authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 23-mile long double-circuit 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission line looping the existing Big Creek 3-Springville transmission line to the existing Rector substation, creating the new Big Creek 3-Rector and Rector-Springville transmission line circuits. Construction was to result in impacts to 98.30 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) habitat including temporary impacts to 52.62 acres and the permanent loss of 45.68 acres of California tiger salamander habitat. The activity was expected to result in incidental take of California tiger salamander, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

Construction was completed in late 2014 and the Minor Amendment No. 7 (Amendment) includes one change to the ITP as originally issued: an extension of an additional 60 months allowed for the mitigation obligation to be fulfilled.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on 10/6/2026 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. An environmental impact report **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** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
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 environmental impact report 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:* 10/6/2026

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager