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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 Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Jackson Powell
Phone: (559) 889-9758

Lead Agency
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (916) 327-6782

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2006101004

Project Title: Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-027-04 (ITP) Minor Amendment No. 2

Project Location (Monterey): The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (Project) includes activities at multiple locations for the installation of pipelines and construction of a Seawater Desalination Plant within unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County, in the town of Castroville, and in the City of Marina.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 2081-2018-027-04 (ITP) Minor Amendment No. 2), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to California American Water. The Project involves the installation of a desalination plant, associated pipelines, including the Transmission Main Pipeline, Castroville Pipeline, Desalinated Water Pipeline, and the Source Water Pipeline along with the installation of two Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Wells. Project activities encompass a total of 54.57 acres.

The Project will permanently remove 14.746 acres and temporarily impact 34.681 acres of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) (CTS) upland habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of CTS, 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. Minor Amendment No. 2, as referenced above and issued by CDFW revises the Project description to include specific construction phases, revises the compensatory mitigation language to allow for the phased purchase of Covered Species credits by Project phase, adds language to allow for establishing security funding by Project phase, revises the Permittee's Principal Officer and Contact Person, revises the CDFW contact, and other non-substantial changes. Minor Amendment No. 2 does not increase the Project's impact.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 1/22/2026, 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 mitigated 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).
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.

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☒ Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the 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:* 1/22/2026

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____