

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Javier Mendez
Phone: (559) 243-4014, extension 288

Lead Agency

California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93501
Contact: Jim Walth
Phone: (805) 542-4657

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2002091009

Project Title: San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project (Project); California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2015-057-04 (ITP), Amendment No. 1.

Project Location: The Project is located between Post Mile (PM) 3.0 near the City of San Juan Bautista to PM 8.2 west of the City of Hollister in the County of San Benito, located on the United States Geologic Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map: Bickmore Canyon, Township 12 south, Range 05 east, Section 31, SE Quarter section of the Mt. Diablo Meridian.

Project Description: The Project involves converting the existing 2-lane conventional highway into a 4-lane, divided, controlled-access expressway including placing an asphalt concrete overlay, flattening cut slopes, widening fill slopes, overpass intersections and widening paved shoulders to 5-foot inside and 10-foot outside.

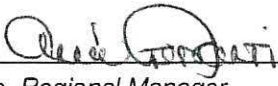
The Project is expected to result in the permanent development of 8.36 acres of upland habitat and temporary impacts to 9.62 acres of upland habitat resulting in a total disturbance of 17.98 acres of California tiger salamander upland habitat. The Project may result in incidental take of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. Amendment No. 1 referenced above authorizes the extension of the ITP expiration for a four-year period changing the expiration date from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2023 and modifying the Project Description's construction schedule. 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 / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 4/16/19 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 Minor Amendment.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this Minor Amendment.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this Minor Amendment.
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.

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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 

Date: 4/16/19

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

APR 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE