

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****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: Laura Peterson-Diaz
 Phone: 559-243-8143

Lead Agency

California High Speed Rail Authority
 770 L Street, Suite 800
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Contact: Mark A. McLoughlin

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2009091126

Project Title: California High-Speed Train Project: Fresno to Bakersfield Major Amendment No. 20 (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2015-024-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Project includes the California High Speed Train (HST) alignment beginning on the south side of the G Street and San Benito Street intersection, north of Highway 41, in the City of Fresno, Fresno County, California. From this intersection, the Fresno to Bakersfield HST alignment extends south either along or adjacent to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) for approximately 99 miles before reaching the section endpoint, at the intersection of 7th Standard Road, and Santa Fe Way, within the city limits of Shafter, in Kern County, California.

Project Description: The Project approved by CDFW consists of the ITP, Major Amendment No. 1, Major Amendment No. 2, Major Amendment No. 3, Minor Amendment No. 4, Major Amendment No. 5, Major Amendment No. 6, Major Amendment No. 7, Major Amendment No. 8, Major Amendment No. 9, Major Amendment No. 10, Major Amendment No. 11, Major Amendment No. 12, Major Amendment No. 13, Major Amendment No. 14, Major Amendment No. 15, Major Amendment No. 16, Major Amendment No. 17, Major Amendment No. 18, Major Amendment No. 19, and this Major Amendment No. 20, as referenced above and as issued by CDFW, which addresses construction and operation of the Fresno to Bakersfield segment of the HST, as approved by the lead agency, affecting or generally related to fish and wildlife resources subject to the regulatory authority of CDFW, including natural resources subject to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The ITP authorizes incidental take of the threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and the endangered Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*), (collectively, the Covered Species), species designated as threatened and endangered under CESA.

Major Amendment No. 20 makes six changes to the ITP, as previously amended. This Amendment 1) updates Condition of Approval 7.1 to include Work Area burrow mapping as part of the Notification and adds new review timelines; 2) makes a correction to the numbering due to two measures added by Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 6 which were both given Condition of Approval number 7.12; 3) updates multiple Conditions of Approval relating to trapping and burrow excavation for Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*, TKR) and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*, SJAS) to provide alternatives for minimization of take depending on the Work Area location and whether or not it is inside or outside Mapping Areas 1, 2, and 3 (Figures 1-3) identified in the new Exhibit 7; 4) changes the numbering of Condition of Approval 8.17.4 for Record of Covered Species Handled to accommodate the additional trapping measure; 5) makes a correction to the numbering of the two Conditions of Approval under "Take Minimization Measures" subsection titled "Specific Measures for SJKF," due to the previous utilization of the number 8.15.6 in Amendment 2; and 6) incorporates Exhibit 7, TKR/SJAS Mapping Areas 1, 2, and 3 (Figures 1-3) into the ITP, as amended.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 3/27/2020 and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

Notice of Determination

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).
 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 EIR 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.

DocuSigned by:

 Signature _____ Date: 3/27/2020
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 Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 30 2020

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE