

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)
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Magdalena Rodriguez
Phone: (909) 844-2520

Lead Agency
Riverside County
77-588 El Duna Court, Suite H
Palm Desert, CA 92211
Contact: Jay Olivas
Phone: (760) 863-7050

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

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH No.2011054002

Project Title: Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2017-052-06 Amendment No. 1 (ITP))

Project Location: The Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project (Project) is located entirely on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The Project is located approximately ten miles east of the unincorporated community of Desert Center just north of Interstate (I-10), halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe. It is located at Latitude: N 33.70° and Longitude: W -115.22° (NAD 83 or WGS 84).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed an amendment for Incidental Take Permit 2081-2017-052-06 for the project Applicant, Palen Solar Holdings, LLC.

The amendment for ITP 2081-2017-052-06 will result in a reduction of 140 acres of mitigation to the covered species, will extend the timeline for completion of mitigation from 18 months to 33 months, to be completed by October 31, 2021, and will add a measure to allow for desert tortoise temporary fencing along the two access roads within the desert wash connecting the tow solar array sites.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above described project on April 21, 2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision.

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):
 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.

Notice of Determination

DocuSigned by:

Scott Wilson for

4/21/2021

Signature

Date:

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Leslie MacNair, *Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____