

**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 (4)  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
Contact: Laura Peterson-Diaz  
Phone: (559) 243-4014, extension 225

Lead Agency  
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Contact: Eric Chiang  
Phone: (415) 703-1956

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108**  
State Clearinghouse Number: 2012011044

Project Title: Downs Substation Expansion Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2014-032-04 (ITP) Minor Amendment No. 2)

Project Location: This proposed Project consists of three (3) work activity components that occur generally within the northeastern corner of Kern County and within the northwestern corner of San Bernardino County spanning a distance of approximately 35 miles.

Project Description: This proposed Project involves the construction and operations and maintenance (O&M) of upgrades and expansion of the existing Downs Substation and performing modifications and upgrades to the associated transmission and telecommunications facilities in the greater Ridgecrest area. The Project is expected to result in permanent impacts to 11.33 acres of Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of Mohave ground squirrel, which is designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). 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.

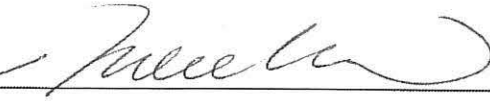
Minor Amendment No. 2 makes four changes to the ITP, as previously amended. These changes: 1) update contact information, 2) expand the authority and responsibility of the Biological Monitor, 3) modify the requirement for worker education training materials, and 4) modify some of the reporting requirements.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as  the lead agency /  a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 4/9/19 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 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). 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 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:* 4/9/19

Julie A. Vance, *Regional Manager, Central Region*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

APR 09 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE