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 Inland Deserts Region 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220 Ontario, CA 91764 Contact: Dr. Shankar Sharma Phone: 909-228-3692

Lead Agency City of Victorville 14343 Civic Drive Victorville, CA 92392 Contact: Mr. Scott Webb Phone: 760-955-5135

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019059120

Project Title: High Desert Solar Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0122-R6)

Project Location (include county): The project site is located in the city of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California. The site is situated at Township 6 North, Range 5 West of the San Bernardino Meridian, as shown on the 7.5-minute series United States Geological Survey topographic maps. The project area would be located mostly east of Helendale Road and west of Floreate Road directly north of the Southern California Logistics Airport and the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority properties.

Project Description: The High Desert Solar Project is proposed to be a solar photovoltaic power (108 megawatt) facility with an integrated battery energy storage system. The project would be developed on the proposed site consisting of solar photovoltaic field, battery energy storage system, substation, balance of system, and a corridor consisting of a 2.3-mile 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie line that would run east and then south in a defined and studied corridor to connect to the existing Victor-Caldwell 230kV line. A 1.7-mile 12.47kV service line would connect to the Victorville Municipal Utility Services system. The construction work will require standard equipment and vehicles including bulldozers, graders, skip-loaders, backhoes, and pick-up trucks, water trucks, haul trucks, bucket trucks, compactors, backhoe, excavator, drill rig, concrete trucks, cranes, puller and tensioner, reel trailer, splice trailer, and air compressors. Damaged or underperforming modules, mechanical fasteners and inverters would be repaired or replaced as required. The maintenance along the Gen-Tie line will entail using the same access roads as were used during construction, along with drainage crossings using the low-impact procedures used for that effort. Geo-mats may be used to stabilize the crossing and reduce disturbance.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project on March 27, 2020 and made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

- 1. The project 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. CDFW considered the invironmental impact report / initigated negative declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
- 3. 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 not adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 6. Findings were made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The \Box environmental impact report / \boxtimes mitigated negative declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature

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Date 3/27/2020

Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: