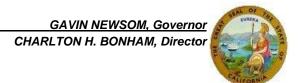
State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
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www.wildlife.ca.gov



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 13 2021

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

July 9, 2021

Ryan Leonard Senior Planner City of Hesperia 9700 Seventh Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report, I-15 Industrial Park Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2021060397

Dear Mr. Leonard:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from the City of Hesperia (City) for the I-15 Industrial Park Project (Project) pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources, and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State. (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a).) CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (*Id.*, § 1802.) Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381.) CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As

1 CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 2 of 12

proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority. (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.) Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), the Project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The proposed Project includes construction of two industrial/warehouse buildings on an approximately 97.64-acre project site resulting in 1,850,000 square feet of industrial/warehouse space and associated improvements, including loading docks, tractor-trailer stalls, passenger vehicle parking spaces, stormwater detention basins, and landscape area. The project would also include off-site construction of Sultana Street to connect the two buildings. The Project would require a General Plan Amendment to modify a portion of the Project site's General Plan Land Use designation from Regional Commercial to Commercial/Industrial Business Park, a Specific Plan Amendment to modify a portion of the Project site's Main Street and Freeway Corridor Specific Plan land use designation from Regional Commercial to Commercial/Industrial Business Park, and a Zone Change to modify a portion of the Project site's zoning designation Regional Commercial to Commercial Business Park.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. CDFW recommends that the forthcoming DEIR address the following:

Assessment of Biological Resources

Section 15125(c) of the CEQA Guidelines states that knowledge of the regional setting of a project is critical to the assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on environmental resources that are rare or unique to the region. To enable CDFW staff to adequately review and comment on the project, the DEIR should include a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Project footprint, with particular emphasis on identifying rare, threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species and their associated habitats.

The CDFW recommends that the DEIR specifically include:

1. An assessment of the various habitat types located within the project footprint, and a map that identifies the location of each habitat type. CDFW recommends that floristic, alliance- and/or association based mapping and assessment be completed following *The Manual of California Vegetation*, second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009).

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 3 of 12

Adjoining habitat areas should also be included in this assessment where site activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts offsite. Habitat mapping at the alliance level will help establish baseline vegetation conditions.

- 2. A general biological inventory of the fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species that are present or have the potential to be present within each habitat type onsite and within adjacent areas that could be affected by the project. CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) should be reviewed to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code. Please note that CDFW's CNDDB is not exhaustive in terms of the data it houses, nor is it an absence database. CDFW recommends that it be used as a starting point in gathering information about the *potential presence* of species within the general area of the project site.
- 3. A complete, recent inventory of rare, threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species located within the Project footprint and within offsite areas with the potential to be affected, including California Species of Special Concern (CSSC) and California Fully Protected Species (Fish and Game Code § 3511). Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition (CEQA Guidelines § 15380). The inventory should address seasonal variations in use of the Project area and should not be limited to resident species. Focused species-specific surveys, completed by a qualified biologist and conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. CDFW requests species-surveys are performed independently rather than concurrently with other surveys (such as reconnaissance surveys) to maximize detection of species present on-site. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where necessary. Note that CDFW generally considers biological field assessments for wildlife to be valid for a one-year period, and assessments for rare plants may be considered valid for a period of up to three years. Some aspects of the proposed Project may warrant periodic updated surveys for certain sensitive taxa, particularly if the Project is proposed to occur over a protracted time frame, or in phases, or if surveys are completed during periods of drought.

Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia)

The Project site has the potential to provide suitable foraging and/or nesting habitat for burrowing owl. Take of individual burrowing owls and their nests is defined by Fish and Game Code section 86, and prohibited by sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513. Take is defined in Fish and Game Code section 86 as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill."

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 4 of 12

CDFW recommends that the City follow the recommendations and guidelines provided in the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG, 2012); available for download from CDFW's website:

https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/survey-protocols. The Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation specifies three steps for project impact evaluations: habitat assessment, surveys, and an impact assessment.

As stated in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG, 2012), the three progressive steps are effective in evaluating whether a project will result in impacts to burrowing owls, and the information gained from the steps will inform any subsequent avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. Habitat assessments are conducted to evaluate the likelihood that a site supports burrowing owl. Burrowing owl surveys provide information needed to determine the potential effects of proposed projects and activities on burrowing owls, and to avoid take in accordance with Fish and Game Code sections 86, 3503, and 3503.5. Impact assessments evaluate the extent to which burrowing owls and their habitat may be impacted, directly or indirectly, on and within a reasonable distance of a proposed CEQA project activity or non-CEQA project.

Desert Tortoise (Gopherus agassizii)

The proposed Project occurs within the range of desert tortoise; a state-listed threatened and endangered candidate species, and a federally-listed threatened species. CDFW recommends that the City complete a protocol level survey over all areas to obtain 100-percent visual coverage proposed to be directly or indirectly affected by the Project, using appropriately qualified biologists, following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Field Manual (2009) at Desert Tortoise Field Manual (fws.gov). In addition, CDFW recommends the survey be completed during the more active season of desert tortoise.

CDFW recommends that biologists retained to complete desert tortoise protocol level surveys submit their qualifications to CDFW prior to initiation of surveys. Should the City desire CDFW to pre-approve the qualifications of biologists conducting protocol level desert tortoise surveys, CDFW requests information be provided on the Desert Tortoise Authorized Biologist Qualifications Form within the USFWS Desert Tortoise Field Manual (USFWS, 2009) for all biologists participating in survey efforts to the following email address: Ashley.Rosales@Wildlife.ca.gov.

Mohave Ground Squirrel (Xerospermophilus mohavensis)

The proposed Project occurs within the range of Mohave ground squirrel; a statelisted threatened species. CDFW is aware of protocol level trapping surveys and anticipates the results in the DEIR. Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 5 of 12

Western Joshua Tree (Yucca brevifolia)

The proposed Project occurs within the range of western Joshua tree; a candidate threatened species, CDFW recommends that a detailed survey for western Joshua trees (Yucca brevifolia) and western Joshua tree plant community be conducted in the Project area and adjacent habitat to be directly or indirectly impacted by the project as follows:

- a) The botanical survey should be conducted by a qualified botanist knowledgeable of western Joshua tree ecology, identification, and Yucca genus taxonomy;
- The survey should be conducted during a season that would maximize detection of western Joshua tree fruits. Once pollinated, viable fruits typically form in early summer;
- c) The survey should be performed within the Project site, including all staging areas, vehicle and worker parking areas, ingress and egress routes, and areas subject to Project-related ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal:
- d) The survey should be conducted so that 100 percent visual coverage of Project site is achieved. If transect surveys will be implemented, transects should be spaced close enough to ensure visual coverage of western Joshua tree across all age classes/heights as well as plant species that are low stature (e.g., grasses, groundcover);
- e) The qualified botanist should map Joshua tree Woodland Alliance and/or association. A thorough and floristic-based mapping and assessment of plant communities should follow CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018). The Manual of California Vegetation (MCV), second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009), should be used concurrently;
- f) The qualified botanist should map each individual western Joshua tree. For each western Joshua tree, the qualified botanist should approximate the tree's height (feet) and age class, count the number of branching terminal flower panicles, and describe the phenological development of the tree (e.g., young leaves, leaves, flowers, open flowers, fruits, and recent fruit drop). A western Joshua tree that is reproducing asexually (e.g., rhizomes, branch sprouts, basal sprouts, clonal growth) should be documented; and,
- g) The qualified botanist should assess whether there is western Joshua tree recruitment within each Joshua tree alliance and/or association. The qualified

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 6 of 12

botanist should count and map western Joshua tree offspring from sexual reproduction.

- 4. A thorough, recent, floristic-based assessment of special status plants and natural communities, following CDFW's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (see https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Plants).
- 5. Information on the regional setting that is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts, with special emphasis on resources that are rare or unique to the region (CEQA Guidelines § 15125[c]).
- 6. A full accounting of all open space and mitigation/conservation lands within and adjacent to the Project.

Analysis of Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts to Biological Resources

The DEIR should provide a thorough discussion of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources as a result of the Project. To ensure that Project impacts to biological resources are fully analyzed, the following information should be included in the DEIR:

- 1. A discussion of potential impacts from lighting, noise, human activity (e.g., recreation), defensible space, and wildlife-human interactions created by zoning of development projects or other project activities adjacent to natural areas, exotic and/or invasive species, and drainage. The latter subject should address Project-related changes on drainage patterns and water quality within, upstream, and downstream of the Project site, including: volume, velocity, and frequency of existing and post-Project surface flows; polluted runoff; soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies; and post-Project fate of runoff from the Project site.
- 2. A discussion of potential indirect Project impacts on biological resources, including resources in areas adjacent to the project footprint, such as nearby public lands (e.g. National Forests, State Parks, etc.), open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and any designated and/or proposed reserve or mitigation lands.
- 3. An evaluation of impacts to adjacent open space lands from both the construction of the Project and any long-term operational and maintenance needs.
- 4. A cumulative effects analysis developed as described under CEQA Guidelines section 15130. Please include all potential direct and indirect Project related impacts to riparian areas, wetlands, vernal pools, alluvial fan habitats, wildlife corridors or wildlife movement areas, aquatic habitats, sensitive species and other sensitive

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 7 of 12

habitats, open lands, open space, and adjacent natural habitats in the cumulative effects analysis. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.

Alternatives Analysis

CDFW recommends the DEIR describe and analyze a range of reasonable alternatives to the Project that are potentially feasible, would "feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the Project," and would avoid or substantially lessen any of the Project's significant effects (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6[a]). The alternatives analysis should also evaluate a "no project" alternative (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6[e]).

Mitigation Measures for Project Impacts to Biological Resources

The DEIR should identify mitigation measures and alternatives that are appropriate and adequate to avoid or minimize potential impacts, to the extent feasible. The City should assess all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that are expected to occur as a result of the implementation of the Project and its long-term operation and maintenance. When proposing measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts, CDFW recommends consideration of the following:

- 1. Fully Protected Species: Fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time. Project activities described in the DEIR should be designed to completely avoid any fully protected species that have the potential to be present within or adjacent to the Project area. CDFW also recommends that the DEIR fully analyze potential adverse impacts to fully protected species due to habitat modification, loss of foraging habitat, and/or interruption of migratory and breeding behaviors. CDFW recommends that the City include in the analysis how appropriate avoidance measures will reduce indirect impacts to fully protected species.
- 2. Sensitive Plant Communities: CDFW considers sensitive plant communities to be imperiled habitats having both local and regional significance. Plant communities, alliances, and associations with a statewide ranking of S-1, S-2, S-3, and S-4 should be considered sensitive and declining at the local and regional level. These ranks can be obtained by querying the CNDDB and are included in *The Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009). The DEIR should include measures to fully avoid and otherwise protect sensitive plant communities from project-related direct and indirect impacts.
- 3. California Species of Special Concern (CSSC): CSSC status applies to animals generally not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or the CESA, but which nonetheless are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist.

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 8 of 12

CSSCs should be considered during the environmental review process. CSSC that have the potential or have been documented to occur within or adjacent to the project area, including, but not limited to loggerhead shrike (*Lanius Iudovicianus*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) (CNDDB, 2021).

4. Mitigation: CDFW considers adverse project-related impacts to sensitive species and habitats to be significant to both local and regional ecosystems, and the DEIR should include mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to these resources. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, onsite habitat restoration and/or enhancement, and preservation should be evaluated and discussed in detail. Where habitat preservation is not available onsite, offsite land acquisition, management, and preservation should be evaluated and discussed in detail.

The DEIR should include measures to perpetually protect the targeted habitat values within mitigation areas from direct and indirect adverse impacts in order to meet mitigation objectives to offset project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of biological values. Specific issues that should be addressed include restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, long-term monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, increased human intrusion, etc.

If sensitive species and/or their habitat may be impacted from the Project, CDFW recommends the inclusion of specific mitigation in the DEIR. CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4, subdivision (a)(1)(8) states that formulation of feasible mitigation measures should not be deferred until some future date. The Court of Appeal in San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of Merced (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645 struck down mitigation measures which required formulating management plans developed in consultation with State and Federal wildlife agencies after Project approval. Courts have also repeatedly not supported conclusions that impacts are mitigable when essential studies, and therefore impact assessments, are incomplete (Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino (1988) 202 Cal. App. 3d. 296; Gentry v. City of Murrieta (1995) 36 Cal. App. 4th 1359; Endangered Habitat League, Inc. v. County of Orange (2005) 131 Cal. App. 4th 777).

CDFW recommends that the DEIR specify mitigation that is roughly proportional to the level of impacts, in accordance with the provisions of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15126.4(a)(4)(B), 15064, 15065, and 16355). The mitigation should provide long-term conservation value for the suite of species and habitat being impacted by the Project. Furthermore, in order for mitigation measures to be effective, they need to be specific, enforceable, and feasible actions that will improve environmental conditions.

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 9 of 12

5. Habitat Revegetation/Restoration Plans: Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant restoration techniques. Plans should identify the assumptions used to develop the proposed restoration strategy. Each plan should include, at a minimum:

(a) the location of restoration sites and assessment of appropriate reference sites;
(b) the plant species to be used, sources of local propagules, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) a local seed and cuttings and planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity. Monitoring of restoration areas should extend across a sufficient time frame to ensure that the new habitat is established, self-sustaining, and capable of surviving drought.

CDFW recommends that local onsite propagules from the Project area and nearby vicinity be collected and used for restoration purposes. Onsite seed collection should be initiated in the near future in order to accumulate sufficient propagule material for subsequent use in future years. Onsite vegetation mapping at the alliance and/or association level should be used to develop appropriate restoration goals and local plant palettes. Reference areas should be identified to help guide restoration efforts. Specific restoration plans should be developed for various project components as appropriate.

6. Nesting Birds and Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Please note that it is the Project proponent's responsibility to comply with all applicable laws related to nesting birds and birds of prey. Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 afford protective measures as follows: Fish and Game Code section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Fish and Game Code section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. Fish and Game Code section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.).

CDFW recommends that the DEIR include the results of avian surveys, as well as specific avoidance and minimization measures to ensure that impacts to nesting birds do not occur. Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures may include, but not be limited to: project phasing and timing, monitoring of project-related noise (where applicable), sound walls, and buffers, where appropriate. The

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 10 of 12

DEIR should also include specific avoidance and minimization measures that will be implemented should a nest be located within the project site. If pre-construction surveys are proposed in the DEIR, the CDFW recommends that they be required no more than three (3) days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbance activities, as instances of nesting could be missed if surveys are conducted sooner.

California Endangered Species Act

CDFW is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including threatened, endangered, and/or candidate plant and animal species, pursuant to CESA. CDFW recommends that a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of State-listed CESA species, either through construction or over the life of the project. CESA ITPs are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed CESA species and their habitats.

CDFW encourages early consultation, as significant modification to the proposed Project and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures may be necessary to obtain a CESA ITP. The California Fish and Game Code requires that CDFW comply with CEQA for issuance of a CESA ITP. CDFW therefore recommends that the DEIR addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of CESA.

Based on review of CNDDB (2021), and/or knowledge of the project site/vicinity/general area, CDFW is aware that the following CESA-listed species have the potential to occur onsite/have previously been reported onsite: Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mojave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), and western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*).

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may do one or more of the following: Substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake; Substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or Deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream or lake. Please note that "any river, stream or lake" includes those that are episodic (i.e., those that are dry for periods of time) as well as those that are perennial (i.e., those that flow year-round). This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow. It may also apply to work undertaken within the flood plain of a body of water.

Upon receipt of a complete notification, CDFW determines if the proposed Project activities may substantially adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources and whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement is required. An LSA

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 11 of 12

Agreement includes measures necessary to protect existing fish and wildlife resources. CDFW may suggest ways to modify your Project that would eliminate or reduce harmful impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW's issuance of an LSA Agreement is a "project" subject to CEQA (see Pub. Resources Code 21065). To facilitate issuance of an LSA Agreement, if necessary, the DEIR should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream, or riparian resources, and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring and reporting commitments. Early consultation with CDFW is recommended, since modification of the proposed Project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To notify CDFW of Lake or Streambed Alteration, please go to https://epims.wildlife.ca.gov.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Information can be submitted online or via completion of the CNDDB field survey form at https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data. The types of information reported to CNDDB can be found at https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Plants-and-Animals.

FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.).

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP of a DEIR for I-15 Industrial Park Project (SCH No. 2021060397) and recommends that the City of Hesperia address the CDFW's comments and concerns in the forthcoming DEIR. If you should have any questions pertaining to the comments provided in this letter, please contact Ashley Rosales, Environmental Scientist, at (760) 219-9452 or at Ashley.Rosales@Wildlife.ca.gov.

Ryan Leonard, Senior Planner City of Hesperia July 9, 2021 Page 12 of 12

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

for

Alisa Ellsworth

Environmental Program Manager

ec: Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, Sacramento state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

HCPB CEQA Program
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
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Ashley Rosales
Environmental Scientist
Inland Deserts Region
Ashley.Rosales@Wildlife.ca.gov

REFERENCES

- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. M. Evens. 2009. A manual of California Vegetation, 2nd ed. California Native Plant Society Press, Sacramento, California. (http://vegetation.cnps.org/)
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Field Manual: (Gopherus agassizii). Region 8, Sacramento, California.