



**California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 INLAND EMPIRE BLVD., SUITE C-220  
ONTARIO, CA 91764**

California Endangered Species Act  
Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-001-06

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY (SBD)-138 CONSTRUCT MEDIAN AND  
STANDARD SHOULDERS, POST MILE (PM) 0.0-2.4/LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY (LAC) 138 PM 74.9-0.0 (08-1H830)**

**Authority:**

This California Endangered Species Act (CESA) incidental take permit (ITP) is issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq. CESA prohibits the take<sup>1</sup> of any species of wildlife designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species.<sup>2</sup> CDFW may authorize the take of any such species by permit if the conditions set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) are met. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.4).

<b>Permittee:</b>	<b>California Department of Transportation, District 8</b>
<b>Principal Officer:</b>	<b>Adam Compton, Senior Environmental Planner</b>
<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Sarah Gallimore, 909-472-2295</b>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>464 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MS 833 San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400</b>

**Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP:**

This ITP shall be executed in duplicate original form and shall become effective once a duplicate original is acknowledged by signature of the Permittee on the last page of this ITP and returned to CDFW's Habitat Conservation Planning Branch at the address listed in the Notices section of this ITP. Unless renewed by CDFW, this ITP's authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on **April 14, 2031**.

Notwithstanding the expiration date on the take authorization provided by this ITP, Permittee's obligations pursuant to this ITP do not end until CDFW accepts as complete the Permittee's Final Mitigation Report required by Condition of Approval 6.8 of this ITP.

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<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 86, "'take' means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." (See also *Environmental Protection Information Center v. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection* (2008) 44 Cal.4th 459, 507 [for purposes of incidental take permitting under Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b), "'take' ... means to catch, capture or kill".])

<sup>2</sup>The definition of an endangered, threatened, and candidate species for purposes of CESA are found in Fish and Game Code sections 2062, 2067, and 2068, respectively.

**Project Location:**

The Project is located along State Route (SR) -138 from PM 0.0 to 2.4 in San Bernardino County (SBD) 0.5 mile west of Phelan Road and from the SBD line to PM 74.9 in Los Angeles County (LAC)(Project) (See Figure 1). The Project is in portions of Sections 7, 17, and 18, Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Mescal Creek United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute California quadrangle.

**Project Description:**

The Project Area is 55 to 70 feet from center line. All work will occur on the south bound side of the highway within the existing right-of-way (ROW). The Project includes adding a 4 to 14-foot median buffer with 8-foot standard shoulders; installing median and shoulder rumble strips; cold plane and overlay the exiting pavement; extend, replace, remove, or modify the existing culverts; road widening; road cut and fill; driving and parking off-pavement, on site disposal/borrow sites; utility relocation; and removal of vegetation and trees. Project activities include habitat restoration, grinding, grubbing and grading of the entire Project Area, trench digging, pile driving, road construction, tree removal, and other activities. After project staging, the first order of work shall be the removal of 37 Covered Species.

**Covered Species Subject to Take Authorization Provided by this ITP:**

This ITP covers the following species:

Name	CESA Status
1. Western Joshua tree ( <i>Yucca brevifolia</i> )	Candidate <sup>3</sup>

This species and only this species is the “Covered Species” for the purposes of this ITP.

**Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species:**

Project activities and their resulting impacts are expected to result in the incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species. The activities described above expected to result in incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species include vegetation clearing; general operation of vehicles and heavy equipment; vibration, and dust generating activities grading, leveling, and compaction; excavation activities (Covered Activities);

Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species in the form of mortality (“kill”) may occur as a result of Covered Activities such as grading, staging areas, trenching, digging, removal of Covered Species, and grubbing. The areas where authorized take of the Covered Species is expected to occur include: the existing ROW on SR-138 from PM 0.0 to 2.4 in SBD 0.5

<sup>3</sup> See 2020 Cal. Reg. Notice Register, No. 41-Z, pp. 1349 (October 9, 2020).

mile west of Phelan Road and from the SBD line to PM 74.9 in LAC (collectively, the Project Area).

The Project is expected to cause the removal of **37 Covered Species** which is equal to permanent loss of **1.99 acres** of Covered Species habitat. Impacts of the authorized taking also include adverse impacts to the Covered Species related to temporal losses, increased habitat fragmentation and edge effects, and the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (indirect impacts). These impacts include: stress resulting from vibrations from grinding and grading, pollution discharge from the highway, reduction in seed bank, and long-term effects due to increased pollution.

**Incidental Take Authorization of Covered Species:**

This ITP authorizes incidental take of the Covered Species and only the Covered Species. With respect to incidental take of the Covered Species, CDFW authorizes the Permittee, its employees, contractors, and agents to take Covered Species incidentally in carrying out the Covered Activities, subject to the limitations described in this section and the Conditions of Approval identified below. This ITP does not authorize take of Covered Species from activities outside the scope of the Covered Activities, take of Covered Species outside of the Project Area, take of Covered Species resulting from violation of this ITP, or intentional take of Covered Species.

**Conditions of Approval:**

Unless specified otherwise, the following measures apply to all Covered Activities within the Project Area, including areas used for vehicular ingress and egress, staging and parking, and vibration generating activities that may cause take. CDFW's issuance of this ITP and Permittee's authorization to take the Covered Species are subject to Permittee's compliance with and implementation of the following Conditions of Approval:

1. **Legal Compliance:** Permittee shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in existence on the effective date of this ITP or adopted thereafter.
2. **CEQA Compliance:** Permittee shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures related to the Covered Species in the Biological Resources section of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study (SCH No.: 2020060289) adopted by the California Department of Transportation District 8 on October 22, 2020 as lead agency for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).
3. **LSA Agreement Compliance:** Permittee shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures and conditions related to the Covered Species in the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS) No. SBR-15699 for the Project executed by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

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**4. ITP Time Frame Compliance:** Permittee shall fully implement and adhere to the conditions of this ITP within the time frames set forth below and as set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which is included as Attachment 1 to this ITP.

**5. General Provisions:**

- 5.1. Designated Representative. Before starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall designate a representative (Designated Representative) responsible for communications with CDFW and overseeing compliance with this ITP. Permittee shall notify CDFW in writing a minimum of 60 calendar days before starting Covered Activities of the Designated Representative's name, business address, and contact information, and shall notify CDFW in writing if a substitute Designated Representative is selected or identified at any time during the term of this ITP.
- 5.2. Biological Monitor(s). Permittee shall designate Biological Monitor(s) (Biological Monitor(s)) knowledgeable and experienced in the biology of the Covered Species. The Biological Monitor(s) shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat.
- 5.3. Authorized Biologist(s). At least 30 calendar days before starting Covered Activities, the Permittee shall designate Authorized Biologist(s) (Authorized Biologist(s)) knowledgeable in the biology of the Covered Species. Permittee shall ensure that the Authorized Biologist(s) is knowledgeable and experienced in the biology of the Covered Species. The Authorized Biologist(s) shall be responsible for monitoring Covered Activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid the incidental take of individual Covered Species and to minimize disturbance of Covered Species' habitat. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Authorized Biologist(s) in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance in writing if the Authorized Biologist(s) must be changed.
- 5.4. Authorized Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) Authority. To ensure compliance with the Conditions of Approval of this ITP, the Authorized Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) shall have authority to immediately stop any activity that does not comply with this ITP, and/or to order any reasonable measure to avoid the unauthorized take of an individual of the Covered Species.
- 5.5. Project Access. Project-related personnel shall access the Project Area using existing routes and shall not cross Covered Species' habitat outside of or in route to the Project Area. Permittee shall restrict Project-related vehicle traffic to established roads, staging, and parking areas. If Permittee determines construction of routes for travel are necessary outside of the Project Area, the Designated Representative shall

contact CDFW for written approval before carrying out such an activity. CDFW may require an amendment to this ITP, among other reasons, if additional take of Covered Species will occur as a result of the Project modification.

- 5.6. Staging Areas. Permittee shall confine all Project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to the Project Area using, to the extent possible, previously disturbed areas.
- 5.7. Hazardous Waste. Permittee shall immediately stop and, pursuant to pertinent state and federal statutes and regulations, arrange for repair and clean up by qualified individuals of any fuel or hazardous waste leaks or spills at the time of occurrence, or as soon as it is safe to do so. Permittee shall exclude the storage and handling of hazardous materials from the Project Area and shall properly contain and dispose of any unused or leftover hazardous products off-site.
- 5.8. CDFW Access. Permittee shall provide CDFW staff with reasonable access to the Project and mitigation lands under Permittee control and shall otherwise fully cooperate with CDFW efforts to verify compliance with or effectiveness of mitigation measures set forth in this ITP.

## **6. Monitoring, Notification and Reporting Provisions:**

### **Notification**

- 6.1. Notification Before Commencement. The Designated Representative shall notify CDFW 14 calendar days before starting Covered Activities and shall document compliance with all pre-Project Conditions of Approval before starting Covered Activities.
- 6.2. Notification of Non-compliance. The Designated Representative shall immediately notify CDFW in writing if it determines that the Permittee is not in compliance with any Condition of Approval of this ITP, including but not limited to any actual or anticipated failure to implement measures within the time periods indicated in this ITP and/or the MMRP. The Designated Representative shall report any non-compliance with this ITP to CDFW within 24 hours.
- 6.3. Notifying Procedures. The Permittee or the Designated Representative shall provide all required notifications in this ITP by sending an email to the CDFW Regional Representative Wendy Campbell ([Wendy.Campbell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Campbell@wildlife.ca.gov)) and as described in the Notices section of this ITP. All notifications shall be submitted via email to the Regional Representative and shall include the following information: ITP Number, the ITP Condition number that the notification is addressing, any necessary photos or attachments, and the name and phone numbers of the Biological Monitor(s) and/or Authorized Biologist(s) (if applicable).

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## Monitoring

6.4. Compliance Monitoring. The Authorized Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur. The Authorized Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct compliance inspections to (1) minimize incidental take of the Covered Species; (2) prevent unlawful take of species; (3) check for compliance with all measures of this ITP; (4) check all exclusion zones; and (5) ensure that Covered Activities are only occurring in the Project Area. The Designated Representative, Biological Monitor(s), and/or Authorized Biologist(s) shall prepare daily written observation and inspection records summarizing: oversight activities and compliance inspections, observations of Covered Species, and monitoring activities required by this ITP. The Authorized Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor shall conduct compliance inspections a minimum of two times in a seven-day period, after clearing, grubbing, and grading are completed.

## Reporting

6.5. Monthly and Quarterly Compliance Report. Monthly compliance reports shall continue as long as Covered Species removal is occurring. Once the 37 Covered Species have been removed the Permittee shall submit Quarterly Compliance Reports. Both Monthly and Quarterly Compliance Reports along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure shall be submitted to CDFW. Monthly/Quarterly Compliance Reports shall be submitted to CDFW as identified in Condition of Approval 6.3 and via e-mail to the Headquarters CESA Program. Headquarters CESA Program email is CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. CDFW may at any time increase the timing and number of compliance inspections and reports required under this provision depending upon the results of previous compliance inspections. If CDFW determines the reporting schedule must be changed, CDFW will notify Permittee in writing of the new reporting schedule.

6.6. Annual Status Report. Permittee shall provide CDFW with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than January 31 of every year beginning with issuance of this ITP and continuing until CDFW accepts the Final Mitigation Report identified below. Each ASR shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all Monthly/Quarterly Compliance Reports for that year identified in Condition of Approval 6.5; (2) a general description of the status of the Project Area and Covered Activities, including actual or projected completion dates, if known; (3) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure; (4) an assessment of the effectiveness of each completed or partially completed mitigation measure in avoiding, minimizing and mitigating Project impacts; and (5) all available information about Project-related incidental take of the Covered Species.

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6.7. Final Mitigation Report. No later than 45 days after completion of all mitigation measures, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Mitigation Report. The Biological Monitor(s) and/or Authorized Biologist(s) shall prepare the Final Mitigation Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all Monthly/Quarterly Compliance Reports and all ASRs; (2) a copy of the table in the MMRP with notes showing when each of the mitigation measures was implemented; (3) dates with the number of Covered Species removed; (4) beginning and ending dates of Covered Activities; (5) an assessment of the effectiveness of this ITP's Conditions of Approval in minimizing and fully mitigating Project impacts of the taking on Covered Species; (6) recommendations on how mitigation measures might be changed to more effectively minimize take and mitigate the impacts of future projects on the Covered Species; and (7) any other pertinent information.

**7. Take Minimization Measures:** The following requirements are intended to ensure the minimization of incidental take of Covered Species in the Project Area during Covered Activities. Permittee shall implement and adhere to the following conditions to minimize take of Covered Species:

7.1. Herbicides. Permittee shall only use herbicides containing a harmless dye and registered with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). All herbicides shall be applied in accordance with regulations set by DPR. All herbicides shall be used according to labeled instructions. Labeled instructions for the herbicide used shall be made available to CDFW upon request. No herbicide application when winds are greater than five (5) miles per hour.

7.2. Rodenticides and Insecticides. Permittee shall not use rodenticides and/or insecticides on the Project Area without prior written permission from CDFW. Permittee shall not use any second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum) on the Project Area. Permittee shall not use any first-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (diphacinone, chlorophacinone, and warfarin) on the Project Area without prior written permission from CDFW.

7.3. Revegetation. Plantings and seed mix shall be approved by CDFW prior to application. Plantings and seed mix shall be comprised of only native plant material from the same geographic range as the Project.

**8. Habitat Management Land Acquisition:** CDFW has determined that permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat is necessary and required pursuant to CESA to fully mitigate Project-related impacts of the taking on the Covered Species that will result with implementation of the Covered Activities. This determination is based on factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project

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Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the acreage required to provide for adequate compensation.

To meet this requirement, the Permittee shall either purchase **3 acres** of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank (Condition of Approval 8.2) OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of **3 acres** of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 8.4 below. Permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of compensatory habitat must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within **18 months** of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9.1 below for all uncompleted obligations.

8.1. Cost Estimates. CDFW has estimated the cost of acquisition, protection, and perpetual management of the HM lands as follows:

- 8.1.1. Land acquisition costs for HM lands identified in Condition of Approval 8.3 below, estimated at \$10,000.00/acre for 3 acres: **\$30,000.00**. Land acquisitions costs are estimated using local fair market current value for lands with habitat values meeting mitigation requirements;
- 8.1.2. Start-up costs for HM lands, including initial site protection and enhancement costs as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.5 below, estimated at \$2,000.00/acre for 3 acres: **\$6,000.00**.
- 8.1.3. Interim management period funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.3.6 below, estimated at \$1,000.00/acre for 3 acres: **\$3,000.00**.
- 8.1.4. Long-term management funding as described in Condition of Approval 8.4 below, estimated at \$3000.00/acre for 3 acres: **\$9,000.00**. Long-term management funding is estimated initially for the purpose of providing Security to ensure implementation of HM lands management.
- 8.1.5. Related transaction fees including but not limited to account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW as described in Condition of Approval 8.5, estimated at **\$3,000.00**.

8.2. Covered Species Credits. Permittee shall purchase **3 acres** of Covered Species credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank prior to initiating Covered Activities, or no later than **18 months** from the issuance of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 9 below.

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OR:

8.3. Habitat Acquisition and Protection. To provide for the acquisition and perpetual protection and management of the HM lands, the Permittee shall:

- 8.3.1. Fee Title/Conservation Easement. Transfer fee title to the HM lands to CDFW pursuant to terms approved in writing by CDFW. Alternatively, CDFW, in its sole discretion, may authorize a governmental entity, special district, non-profit organization, for-profit entity, person, or another entity to hold title to and manage the property provided that the district, organization, entity, or person meets the requirements of Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended. If CDFW does not hold fee title to the HM lands, CDFW shall act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands or shall, in its sole discretion, approve a non-profit entity, public agency, or Native American tribe to act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands provided that the entity, agency, or tribe meets the requirements of Civil Code section 815.3. If CDFW does not hold the conservation easement, CDFW shall be expressly named in the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. The Permittee shall obtain CDFW written approval of any conservation easement before its execution or recordation. No conservation easement shall be approved by CDFW unless it complies with Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended and includes provisions expressly addressing Government Code sections 65966(j) and 65967(e);
- 8.3.2. HM Lands Approval. Obtain CDFW written approval of the HM lands before acquisition and/or transfer of the land by submitting, at least three months before acquisition and/or transfer of the HM lands, a formal Proposed Lands for Acquisition Form (see Attachment 2B) identifying the land to be purchased or property interest conveyed to an approved entity as mitigation for the Project's impacts on Covered Species;
- 8.3.3. HM Lands Documentation. Provide a recent preliminary title report, initial hazardous materials survey report, and other necessary documents (see Attachment 2A). All documents conveying the HM lands and all conditions of title are subject to the approval of CDFW, and if applicable, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of General Services;
- 8.3.4. Land Manager. Designate both an interim and long-term land manager approved by CDFW. The interim and long-term land managers may, but need not, be the same. The interim and/or long-term land managers may be the landowner or another party. Documents related to land management shall identify both the interim and long-term land managers. Permittee shall notify CDFW of any subsequent changes in the land manager within 30 days of the

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change. If CDFW will hold fee title to the mitigation land, CDFW will also act as both the interim and long-term land manager unless otherwise specified.

- 8.3.5. Start-up Activities. Provide for the implementation of start-up activities, including the initial site protection and enhancement of HM lands, once the HM lands have been approved by CDFW. Start-up activities include, at a minimum: (1) preparing a final management plan for CDFW approval (see <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Banking/Templates>) (2) conducting a baseline biological assessment and land survey report within four months of recording or transfer; (3) developing and transferring Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data if applicable; (4) establishing initial fencing; (5) conducting litter removal; (6) conducting initial habitat restoration or enhancement, if applicable; and (7) installing signage;
- 8.3.6. Interim Management (Initial and Capital). Provide for the interim management of the HM lands. The Permittee shall ensure that the interim land manager implements the interim management of the HM lands as described in the final management plan and conservation easement approved by CDFW. The interim management period shall be a minimum of three years from the date of HM land acquisition and protection and full funding of the Endowment and includes expected management following start-up activities. Interim management period activities described in the final management plan shall include fence repair, continuing trash removal, site monitoring, and vegetation and invasive species management. Permittee shall either (1) provide a security to CDFW for the minimum of three years of interim management that the land owner, Permittee, or land manager agrees to manage and pay for at their own expense, (2) establish an escrow account with written instructions approved in advance in writing by CDFW to pay the land manager annually in advance, or (3) establish a short-term enhancement account with CDFW or a CDFW-approved entity for payment to the land manager.
- 8.3.7. HM Land(s) Selection Criteria. HM Land(s) shall be located within the range of Covered Species and have presence of Covered Species on HM Land(s).
- 8.4. Endowment Fund. If the Permittee will permanently protect and perpetually manage compensatory habitat as described in Condition of Approval 8.3, The Permittee shall ensure that the HM lands are perpetually managed, maintained, and monitored by the long-term land manager as described in this ITP, the conservation easement, and the final management plan approved by CDFW. After obtaining CDFW approval of the HM lands, Permittee shall provide long-term management funding for the perpetual management of the HM lands by establishing a long-term management fund (Endowment). The Endowment is a sum of money, held in a CDFW-approved fund that provides funds for the perpetual management, maintenance, monitoring,

and other activities on the HM lands consistent with the management plan(s) required by Condition of Approval 8.3.6. Endowment as used in this ITP shall refer to the endowment deposit and all interest, dividends, other earnings, additions and appreciation thereon. The Endowment shall be governed by this ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.

After the interim management period, Permittee shall ensure that the designated long-term land manager implements the management and monitoring of the HM lands according to the final management plan. The long-term land manager shall be obligated to manage and monitor the HM lands in perpetuity to preserve their conservation values in accordance with this ITP, the conservation easement, and the final management plan. Such activities shall be funded through the Endowment.

- 8.4.1. Identify an Endowment Manager. The Endowment shall be held by the Endowment Manager, which shall be either CDFW or another entity qualified pursuant to Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended. Permittee shall submit to CDFW a written proposal that includes: (i) the name of the proposed Endowment Manager; (ii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager is a governmental entity, special district, nonprofit organization, community foundation, or congressionally chartered foundation; (iii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager holds the property or an interest in the property for conservation purposes as required by Government Code section 65968(b)(1) or, in the alternative, the basis for finding that the Project qualifies for an exception pursuant to Government Code section 65968(b)(2); and (iv) a copy of the proposed Endowment Manager's certification pursuant to Government Code section 65968(e). Within thirty days of CDFW's receipt of Permittee's written proposal, CDFW shall inform Permittee in writing if it determines the proposal does not satisfy the requirements of Fish and Game Code section 2081(b)(4) and, if so, shall provide Permittee with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. If CDFW does not provide Permittee with a written determination within the thirty-day period, the proposal shall be deemed consistent with Section 2081(b)(4).;
- 8.4.2. Calculate the Endowment Funds Deposit. After obtaining CDFW written approval of the HM lands, long-term management plan, and Endowment Manager, Permittee shall prepare a Property Analysis Record (PAR) or PAR-equivalent analysis (hereinafter "PAR") to calculate the amount of funding necessary to ensure the long-term management of the HM lands (Endowment Deposit Amount). The Permittee shall submit to CDFW for review and approval the results of the PAR before transferring funds to the Endowment Manager.

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8.4.2.1. Capitalization Rate and Fees. Permittee shall obtain the capitalization rate from the selected Endowment Manager for use in calculating the PAR and adjust for any additional administrative, periodic, or annual fees.

8.4.2.2. Endowment Buffers/Assumptions. Permittee shall include in PAR assumptions the following buffers for endowment establishment and use that will substantially ensure long-term viability and security of the Endowment:

8.4.2.2.1. 10 Percent Contingency. A 10 percent contingency shall be added to each endowment calculation to hedge against underestimation of the fund, unanticipated expenditures, inflation, or catastrophic events.

8.4.2.2.2. Three Years Delayed Spending. The endowment shall be established assuming spending will not occur for the first three years after full funding.

8.4.2.2.3. Non-annualized Expenses. For all large capital expenses to occur periodically but not annually such as fence replacement or well replacement, payments shall be withheld from the annual disbursement until the year of anticipated need or upon request to Endowment Manager and CDFW.

8.4.3. Transfer Long-term Endowment Funds. Permittee shall transfer the long-term endowment funds to the Endowment Manager upon CDFW approval of the Endowment Deposit Amount identified above. The approved Endowment Manager may pool the Endowment with other endowments for the operation, management, and protection of HM lands for local populations of the Covered Species but shall maintain separate accounting for each Endowment. The Endowment Manager shall, at all times, hold and manage the Endowment in compliance with this ITP, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.

8.5. Reimburse CDFW. Permittee shall reimburse CDFW for all reasonable expenses incurred by CDFW such as transaction fees, account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW.

**9. Performance Security:** The Permittee may proceed with Covered Activities only after the Permittee has ensured funding (Security) to complete any activity required by Condition of Approval 8 that has not been completed before Covered Activities begin. Permittee shall provide Security as follows:

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- 9.1. Security Amount. The Security shall be in the amount of **\$51,000.00**. This amount is based on the cost estimates identified in Condition of Approval 8.1 above.
- 9.2. Security Form. The Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit (see Attachment 3) or another form of Security approved in advance in writing by CDFW's Office of the General Counsel.
- 9.3. Security Timeline. The Security shall be provided to CDFW before Covered Activities begin or within 30 days after the effective date of this ITP, whichever occurs first.
- 9.4. Security Holder. The Security shall be held by CDFW or in a manner approved in advance in writing by CDFW.
- 9.5. Security Transmittal. If CDFW holds the Security, Permittee shall transmit it to CDFW with a completed Mitigation Payment Transmittal Form (see Attachment 4) or by way of an approved instrument such as escrow, irrevocable letter of credit, or other.
- 9.6. Security Drawing. The Security shall allow CDFW to draw on the principal sum if CDFW, in its sole discretion, determines that the Permittee has failed to comply with the Conditions of Approval of this ITP.
- 9.7. Security Release. The Security (or any portion of the Security then remaining) shall be released to the Permittee after CDFW has conducted an on-site inspection and received confirmation that all secured requirements have been satisfied, as evidenced by:
  - Written documentation of the acquisition of the HM lands;
  - Copies of all executed and recorded conservation easements;
  - Written confirmation from the approved Endowment Manager of its receipt of the full Endowment; and
  - Timely submission of all required reports.

Even if Security is provided, the Permittee must complete the required acquisition, protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation easements no later than 18 months from the effective date of this ITP. CDFW may require the Permittee to provide additional HM lands and/or additional funding to ensure the impacts of the taking are minimized and fully mitigated, as required by law, if the Permittee does not complete these requirements within the specified timeframe.

**Amendment:**

This ITP may be amended as provided by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c), and other applicable law. This ITP may be amended without the concurrence of the Permittee as required by law, including if CDFW determines that continued implementation of the Project as authorized under this ITP would jeopardize the

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continued existence of the Covered Species or where Project changes or changed biological conditions necessitate an ITP amendment to ensure that all Project-related impacts of the taking to the Covered Species are minimized and fully mitigated.

**Stop-Work Order:**

CDFW may issue Permittee a written stop-work order requiring Permittee to suspend any Covered Activity for an initial period of up to 25 days to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP, including but not limited to the failure to comply with reporting or monitoring obligations, or to prevent the unauthorized take of any CESA endangered, threatened, or candidate species. Permittee shall stop work immediately as directed by CDFW upon receipt of any such stop-work order. Upon written notice to Permittee, CDFW may extend any stop-work order issued to Permittee for a period not to exceed 25 additional days. Suspension and revocation of this ITP shall be governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 783.7, and any other applicable law. Neither the Biological Monitor(s), Authorized Biologist(s) nor CDFW shall be liable for any costs incurred in complying with stop-work orders.

**Compliance with Other Laws:**

This ITP sets forth CDFW's requirements for the Permittee to implement the Project pursuant to CESA. This ITP does not necessarily create an entitlement to proceed with the Project. Permittee is responsible for complying with all other applicable federal, state, and local law.

**Notices:**

The Permittee shall deliver a fully executed duplicate original ITP by registered first class mail or overnight delivery to the following address:

Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Attention: CESA Permitting Program  
Post Office Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Alternatively, the Permittee shall email the digitally signed ITP to [CESA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CESA@wildlife.ca.gov). Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code section 16.5.

Written notices, reports and other communications relating to this ITP shall be delivered to CDFW by email. Notices, reports, and other communications shall reference the Project name, Permittee, and ITP Number (2081-2021-001-06) in a cover letter and on any other associated documents.

Original cover with attachment(s) to:

Leslie MacNair, Regional Manager  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220

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Ontario, CA 91764  
Telephone (909) 484-0167  
Fax: (909) 941-7365

and a copy to:

Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Attention: CESA Permitting Program  
Post Office Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
[CESA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CESA@wildlife.ca.gov)

and a copy to:

Wendy.Campbell@wildlife.ca.gov

Unless Permittee is notified otherwise, CDFW's Regional Representative for purposes of addressing issues that arise during implementation of this ITP is:

Wendy Campbell, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)  
787 North Main Street, Suite 220  
Bishop, CA 93514  
Telephone (760) 920-8571  
Wendy.campbell@wildlife.ca.gov

**Compliance with California Environmental Quality Act:**

CDFW's issuance of this ITP is subject to CEQA. CDFW is a responsible agency pursuant to CEQA with respect to this ITP because of prior environmental review of the Project by the lead agency, California Department of Transportation. (See generally Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21067, 21069.) The lead agency's prior environmental review of the Project is set forth in the SBD-138 Construct 4' Median and Standard Shoulders Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study, (SCH No.: 2020060289) dated October 22, 2020 that the California Department of Transportation adopted for SBD-138 Construct 4' Median and Standard Shoulders Project on date adopted. At the time the lead agency adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approved the Project it also adopted various mitigation measures for the Covered Species as conditions of Project approval.

This ITP, along with CDFW's related CEQA findings, which are available as a separate document, provide evidence of CDFW's consideration of the lead agency's Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and the environmental effects related to issuance of this ITP (CEQA Guidelines, § 15096, subd. (f)). CDFW finds that issuance of this ITP will not result in any previously undisclosed potentially significant effects on the environment or a

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substantial increase in the severity of any potentially significant environmental effects previously disclosed by the lead agency. Furthermore, to the extent the potential for such effects exists, CDFW finds adherence to and implementation of the Conditions of Project Approval adopted by the lead agency, and that adherence to and implementation of the Conditions of Approval imposed by CDFW through the issuance of this ITP, will avoid or reduce to below a level of significance any such potential effects. CDFW consequently finds that issuance of this ITP will not result in any significant, adverse impacts on the environment.

**Findings Pursuant to CESA:**

These findings are intended to document CDFW's compliance with the specific findings requirements set forth in CESA and related regulations. (Fish & G. Code § 2081, subs. (b)-(c); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.4, subds, (a)-(b), 783.5, subd. (c)(2).)

CDFW finds based on substantial evidence in the ITP application, SBD-138 Construct 4' Median and Standard Shoulders, Natural Environment Study for the SBD-138 Construct 4' Median and Standard Shoulders, the results of consultations, and the administrative record of proceedings, that issuance of this ITP complies and is consistent with the criteria governing the issuance of ITPs pursuant to CESA:

- (1) Take of Covered Species as defined in this ITP will be incidental to the otherwise lawful activities covered under this ITP;
- (2) Impacts of the taking on Covered Species will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by this ITP and as described in the MMRP. Measures include: (1) permanent habitat protection; (2) establishment of avoidance zones; (3) worker education; and (4) Monthly/Quarterly Compliance Reports. CDFW evaluated factors including an assessment of the importance of the habitat in the Project Area, the extent to which the Covered Activities will impact the habitat, and CDFW's estimate of the acreage required to provide for adequate compensation. Based on this evaluation, CDFW determined that the protection and management in perpetuity of **3 acres** of compensatory habitat that is contiguous with other protected Covered Species habitat and/or is of higher quality than the habitat being destroyed by the Project, along with the minimization, monitoring, reporting, and funding requirements of this ITP minimizes and fully mitigates the impacts of the taking caused by the Project;
- (3) The take avoidance and mitigation measures required pursuant to the conditions of this ITP and its attachments are roughly proportional in extent to the impacts of the taking authorized by this ITP;
- (4) The measures required by this ITP maintain Permittee's objectives to the greatest extent possible;
- (5) All required measures are capable of successful implementation;

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- (6) This ITP is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to California Code of Regulations sections 2112 and 2114;
- (7) Permittee has ensured adequate funding to implement the measures required by this ITP as well as for monitoring compliance with, and the effectiveness of, those measures for the Project; and
- (8) Issuance of this ITP will not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species based on the best scientific and other information reasonably available, and this finding includes consideration of the species' capability to survive and reproduce, and any adverse impacts of the taking on those abilities in light of (1) known population trends; (2) known threats to the species; and (3) reasonably foreseeable impacts on the species from other related projects and activities. Moreover, CDFW's finding is based, in part, on CDFW's express authority to amend the terms and conditions of this ITP without concurrence of the Permittee as necessary to avoid jeopardy and as required by law.

**Attachments:**

FIGURE 1	Map of Project
ATTACHMENT 1	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
ATTACHMENT 2A, 2B	Habitat Management Lands Checklist; Proposed Lands for Acquisition Form
ATTACHMENT 3	Letter of Credit Form
ATTACHMENT 4	Mitigation Payment Transmittal Form

**ISSUED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

on 5/19/2021

DocuSigned by:  
*Leslie MacNair*  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leslie MacNair, Regional Manager  
 Inland Deserts Region

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The undersigned: (1) warrants that he or she is acting as a duly authorized representative of the Permittee, (2) acknowledges receipt of this ITP, and (3) agrees on behalf of the Permittee to comply with all terms and conditions

By: *Adam Compton* Date: 5/24/2021  
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Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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