



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501

California Endangered Species Act
Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-0001-R1

25600 WARD AVENUE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

I. 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 take¹ of any species of wildlife designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species.² However, CDFW may authorize the take of any such species by permit pursuant to the conditions set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c). (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.4.)

Permittee: **Black Diamond Holdings, LLC**

Principal Officer: Quin Hogan

Contact Person: **Quin Hogan**
Phone: (530) 342-8655
E-Mail: Quin@rrhorn.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6697
Chico, California 95927

II. Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP:

This ITP is effective as of the date signed by CDFW below. Unless renewed by CDFW, this ITP and its authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on **September 11, 2029**.

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 5.7 of this ITP.

¹Pursuant 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".])

²The 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.

III. Project Location:

The 25600 Ward Avenue Residential Project (Project) is located at 25600 Ward Avenue within the community of Cleone in unincorporated Mendocino County (See Figure 1). The Project is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the City of Fort Bragg at approximately 39.498839°N, -123.788755°W (See Figure 2). The Project site is bound by Ward Avenue to the north and south, and MacKerricher State Park and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

IV. Project Description:

The Project includes the construction of a single family residence on 0.12-acre of a 0.92-acre parcel of undeveloped land. Construction would commence in September 2024 and last six months. Project activities include grading 0.12 acre for construction of the house and driveway, installation of septic system and leach field, test well drilling and establishment of a residential well and pumphouse, and other activities including habitat restoration and invasive plant management.

V. Covered Species Subject to Take Authorization Provided by this ITP:

This ITP covers the following species:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>CESA Status</u> ³ |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Howell’s spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe howelli</i>) | Threatened ⁴ |

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

VI. 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 site grading, test well drilling, and the installation of the residential well and septic system with leach field. (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 removal of individuals during site grading, the drilling of test wells, and installation of the residential well and pumphouse. Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species may also occur from the Covered Activities in the form of seed collection. The areas where authorized take of the Covered Species is expected to occur include the 0.12 acre building site (collectively, the Project Area).

The Project is expected to cause the permanent loss of 0.02 acre of dune mat habitat for the Covered Species, and temporary loss of 0.03 acre of dune mat habitat for the Covered Species. 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

³ Under CESA, a species may be on the list of endangered species, the list of threatened species, or the list of candidate species.

⁴See Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 670.2(13)(a).

include encroachment into habitat by the residence's occupants or guests through creation of informal trails.

VII. 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.

VIII. Conditions of Approval:

Unless specified otherwise, the following measures apply to all Covered Activities within the Project Area, including areas used for vehicular and equipment ingress and egress and equipment and construction material staging and parking. 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.: 2022010350) adopted by the County of Mendocino on February 24, 2022 as lead agency for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).
3. **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) the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Program (HMMP) and which are included as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 to this ITP.

4. General Provisions:

- 4.1. 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 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.

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- 4.2. Designated Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s).** Permittee shall submit to CDFW in writing the name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of the Designated Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) using the Biologist Resume Form (ATTACHMENT 3) or another format containing the same information at least 30 days before starting Covered Activities. Permittee shall ensure that the Designated Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) are knowledgeable and experienced in the biology, natural history, and handling of the Covered Species. The Designated Biologist(s) and 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. Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval of the Designated Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) in writing before starting Covered Activities and shall also obtain approval in advance, in writing, if the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s) must be changed.
- 4.3. Designated Biologist Authority.** To ensure compliance with the Conditions of Approval of this ITP, the Designated Biologist shall immediately stop any activity that does not comply with this ITP and/or order any reasonable measure to avoid the unauthorized take of an individual of the Covered Species. Permittee shall provide unfettered access to the Project Site and otherwise facilitate the Designated Biologist in the performance of his/her duties. If the Designated Biologist is unable to comply with the ITP, then the Designated Biologist shall notify the CDFW Representative immediately. Permittee shall not enter into any agreement or contract of any kind, including but not limited to non-disclosure agreements and confidentiality agreements, with its contractors and/or the Designated Biologist that prohibit or impede open communication with CDFW, including but not limited to providing CDFW staff with the results of any surveys, reports, or studies or notifying CDFW of any non-compliance or take. Failure to notify CDFW of any non-compliance or take or injury of a Covered Species as a result of such agreement or contract may result in CDFW taking actions to prevent or remedy a violation of this ITP.
- 4.4. Education Program.** Permittee shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the Project Area before performing any work. The program shall consist of a presentation from the Designated Biologist that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of the Covered Species, information about the distribution and habitat needs of the Covered Species, sensitivity of the Covered Species to human activities, its status pursuant to CESA including legal protection, recovery efforts, penalties for violations and Project-specific protective measures described in this ITP. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact sheet handout containing this information for workers to carry in the Project Area. Permittee shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform work in the Project Area. Upon completion of the program,

employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures. This training shall be repeated at least once annually for long-term and/or permanent employees that will be conducting work in the Project Area such as gardeners, landscapers, and property managers.

- 4.5. Construction Monitoring Documentation.** The Designated Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) shall maintain construction-monitoring documentation on-site in either hard copy or digital format throughout the construction period, which shall include a copy of this ITP with attachments and a list of signatures of all personnel who have successfully completed the education program. Permittee shall ensure a copy of the construction-monitoring documentation is available for review at the Project site upon request by CDFW.
- 4.6. Trash Abatement.** Permittee shall initiate a trash abatement program before starting Covered Activities and shall continue the program for the duration of the Project. Permittee shall ensure that trash and food items are contained in animal-proof containers and removed, ideally at daily intervals but at least once a week, to avoid attracting opportunistic predators such as ravens, coyotes, and feral dogs.
- 4.7. Erosion Control Materials.** Permittee shall prohibit use of erosion control materials potentially harmful to Covered Species and other species, such as monofilament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material, in potential Covered Species' habitat.
- 4.8. Delineation of Property Boundaries.** Before starting Covered Activities, Permittee shall clearly delineate the boundaries of the Project Area with fencing, stakes, or flags. Permittee shall restrict all Covered Activities to within the fenced, staked, or flagged areas. Permittee shall maintain all fencing, stakes, and flags until the completion of Covered Activities in that area.
- 4.9. Delineation of Habitat.** Permittee shall clearly delineate habitat of the Covered Species within the Project Area with posted signs, stakes, flags, and/or rope or cord, and place fencing as necessary to minimize the disturbance of Covered Species' habitat.
- 4.10. Project Access.** Project-related personnel shall access the Project Area using existing routes and shall not cross Covered Species' habitat outside of or en 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.

- 4.11. 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. Additionally, Permittee shall not use or cross Covered Species' habitat outside of the marked Project Area unless provided for as described in Condition of Approval 4.10 (Project Access) of this ITP.
- 4.12. 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.
- 4.13. CDFW Access.** Permittee shall provide CDFW staff with reasonable access to the Project and restoration areas, and shall otherwise fully cooperate with CDFW efforts to verify compliance with or effectiveness of mitigation measures set forth in this ITP.
- 4.14. Refuse Removal.** Upon completion of Covered Activities, Permittee shall remove from the Project Area and properly dispose of all construction refuse, including, but not limited to, broken equipment parts, wrapping material, cords, cables, wire, rope, strapping, twine, buckets, metal or plastic containers, and boxes.

5. Monitoring, Notification and Reporting Provisions:

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. Notification of Non-compliance.** The Designated Representative shall immediately notify CDFW if 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 follow up within 24 hours with a written report to CDFW describing, in detail, any non-compliance with this ITP and suggested measures to remedy the situation.
- 5.3. Compliance Monitoring.** The Designated Biologist shall be on-site daily when Covered Activities occur until clearing, grubbing, and grading are complete. The Designated Biologist shall conduct compliance inspections a minimum of once a month during periods of inactivity and at least every week during construction after clearing, grubbing, and grading are complete. The Designated Biologist 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 signs, stakes, and fencing are intact, and that Covered Activities are only occurring in the Project Area.

The Designated Representative or Designated Biologist shall prepare daily written observation and inspection records summarizing oversight activities and compliance inspections, observations of Covered Species and their sign, survey results, and monitoring activities required by this ITP.

5.4. Monthly Compliance Report. The Designated Representative or Designated Biologist shall compile the observation and inspection records identified in Condition of Approval 5.3 into a Monthly Compliance Report and submit it to CDFW along with a copy of the MMRP table with notes showing the current implementation status of each mitigation measure. Monthly Compliance Reports shall be submitted to the CDFW offices listed in the Notices section of this ITP and via e-mail to CDFW's Regional Representative and Headquarters CESA Program. At the time of this ITP's approval, the CDFW Regional Representative is Jennifer Garrison (Jennifer.Garrison@wildlife.ca.gov) and 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.

5.5. Annual Status Report. Permittee shall provide CDFW with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than December 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 Compliance Reports for that year identified in Condition of Approval 5.4; (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; (5) all available information about Project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; (6) an accounting of the number of acres subject to both temporary and permanent disturbance, both for the prior calendar year, and a total since ITP issuance; and (7) information about other Project impacts on the Covered Species.

5.6. CNDDDB Observations. The Designated Biologist shall submit all observations of Covered Species to CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) within 60 calendar days of the observation and the Designated Biologist shall include copies of the submitted forms with the next Monthly Compliance Report or ASR, whichever is submitted first relative to the observation.

5.7. Final Mitigation Report. No later than 45 days after completion of all mitigation measures, Permittee shall provide CDFW with a Final Mitigation Report. The Designated Biologist shall prepare the Final Mitigation Report which shall include, at a minimum: (1) a summary of all Monthly 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) all available information about Project-related incidental take of the Covered Species; (4) information about other Project impacts on the Covered Species; (5) beginning and ending dates of Covered Activities; (6) 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; (7) 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 (8) any other pertinent information.

5.8. Notification of Take or Damage. Permittee shall immediately notify the Designated Biologist if a Covered Species is taken or damaged by a Project-related activity, or if a Covered Species is otherwise found dead or damaged within the vicinity of the Project. The Designated Biologist or Designated Representative shall provide initial notification to CDFW by calling the Regional Office at (707) 445-6493. The initial notification to CDFW shall include information regarding the location, species, and number of plants taken or damaged and the ITP Number. Following initial notification, Permittee shall send CDFW a written report within two calendar days. The report shall include the date and time of the finding or incident, location of the plant, and if possible, provide a photograph, explanation as to cause of take or damage, and any other pertinent information.

6. 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:

6.1. To minimize risk of introducing new invasive species to the property during construction, all equipment shall be inspected and free of mud, seeds, and other vegetation debris prior to deployment at the site and shall be inspected or cleaned, if necessary, prior to accessing the site.

7. Mitigation Land Protection and Restoration: 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 from implementation of the Covered Activities. This determination is based on 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 protected acreage required to provide for adequate compensation.

To meet this requirement, the Permittee shall provide for both the restoration of 0.21 acre of dune mat habitat, the preservation and enhancement of 0.18 acre of Covered Species habitat, and the permanent protection and management of 0.80 acre. The requirement for permanent protection of the mitigation lands has been completed (see Condition of Approval 7.2 below). The Permittee shall also restore on-site 0.03 acre of temporarily impacted Covered Species habitat pursuant to Condition of Approval 7.4 below.

7.1. Cost Estimates. For the purposes of determining the Security amount, CDFW has estimated the cost sufficient for CDFW or its contractors to complete restoration of the mitigation lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat as follows:

7.1.1. Restoration of on-site temporary effects to Covered Species habitat as described in Condition of Approval 7.4, calculated at cost of **\$45,000.00**.

7.1.2. All costs associated with CDFW engaging an outside contractor to complete the mitigation tasks, including but not limited to restoration of temporarily disturbed on-site habitat and the restoration of the mitigation lands. These costs include but are not limited to the cost of issuing a request for proposals, transaction costs, contract administration costs, and costs associated with monitoring the contractor's work **\$14,375.00**.

7.2. Mitigation Lands Protection. The Permittee has elected to provide for the permanent protection and management of 0.62 acre of mitigation and restoration lands and the remaining 0.17 acre of undeveloped land (comprised of willow riparian habitat) to complete compensatory mitigation obligations through a Covenant and Environmental Restriction on Property. The County of Mendocino recorded the deed restriction on February 20, 2024.

7.3. Reimburse CDFW. Permittee shall reimburse CDFW for all reasonable costs incurred by CDFW related to issuance and monitoring of this ITP, including, but not limited to transaction fees, account set-up fees, administrative fees, and documentation review.

7.4. Habitat Restoration. Permittee shall restore on-site the 0.03 acre of Covered Species habitat that will be temporarily disturbed during construction to pre-project or better conditions. The Permittee shall implement the restoration of temporary impacts and the restoration of an additional 0.32 acre of restorable dune mat habitat onsite as described in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and shall ensure

that the HMMP and MMRP conditions are successfully implemented by the contractor.

8. 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 7 that has not been completed before Covered Activities begin. Permittee shall provide Security as follows:

- 8.1. Security Amount.** The Security shall be in the amount of **\$59,375.00** or in the amount identified in 7.1 specific to the obligation that has not been completed. This amount is determined by CDFW based on the cost estimates identified in Condition of Approval 7.1 above, sufficient for CDFW or its contractors to complete land acquisition, property enhancement, startup costs, initial management, long-term management, and monitoring.
- 8.2. Security Form.** The Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit (see Attachment 4 for the Project’s draft irrevocable letter of credit).
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. Security Holder.** The Security shall be held by CDFW or in a manner approved in advance in writing by CDFW.
- 8.5. 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.
- 8.6. 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:
 - Timely submission of all required reports.
 - Approval of the Final Mitigation Report.

Even if Security is provided, the Permittee must complete the required on-site restoration and restoration of the mitigation lands. CDFW may require the Permittee to provide additional mitigation 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.

IX. 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 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.

X. Stop-Work Order:

If CDFW determines the Permittee has violated any term or condition of this ITP or has engaged in unlawful take, CDFW may issue Permittee a written stop-work order instructing the Permittee to suspend any Covered Activity for an initial period of up to 30 days or risk suspension or revocation of this ITP. CDFW can issue a stop-work order 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, regardless of whether that species is a Covered Species under this ITP. 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 30 additional days.

If Permittee fails to remedy the violation or to comply with a stop-work order, CDFW may proceed with suspension and revocation of this ITP. 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 Designated Biologist nor CDFW shall be liable for any costs incurred in complying with stop-work orders.

XI. 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.

XII. Notices:

Written notices, reports and other communications relating to this ITP shall be delivered to CDFW by e-mail at the following address, or at addresses CDFW may subsequently provide the Permittee. Notices, reports, and other communications shall reference the Project name, Permittee, and ITP Number (2081-2021-0001-R1) in a cover letter and on any other associated documents.

Original cover with attachment(s) to:

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQAreferals@wildlife.ca.gov

and a copy to:

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Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA@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:

Jennifer Garrison, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
 Telephone (707) 477-7792
Jennifer.Garrison@wildlife.ca.gov

XIII. Compliance with the 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, County of Mendocino. (See generally Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21067, 21069.) The lead agency's prior environmental review of the Project is set forth in the CDP_2017-0033 Mitigated Negative Declaration, (SCH No.: 2022010350) dated January 21, 2022 that the County of Mendocino adopted for CDP_2017-003 (Black Diamond Holdings LLC) on February 24, 2022. 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 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.

XIV. 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, Mitigated Negative Declaration, HMMP, the results of site visit on September 15, 2020 and subsequent 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:

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- (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 HMMP. Measures include: (1) permanent habitat protection; (2) establishment of avoidance zones; (3) worker education; and (4) Monthly 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 restoration of 0.18 acre of Covered species habitat and 0.31 acre restorable dune mat habitat and the protection and management of 0.80 acre 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;
- (6) This ITP is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to Fish and Game Code 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.

XV. Attachments:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| FIGURE 1 | Project Vicinity Map |
| FIGURE 2 | Project Location Map |
| ATTACHMENT 1 | Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP) |
| ATTACHMENT 2 | Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Program (HMMP) |
| ATTACHMENT 3 | Biologist Resume Form |
| ATTACHMENT 4 | Letter of Credit Form |

ISSUED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON 09/11/2024

DocuSigned by:

Tina Bartlett

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Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Northern Region

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