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Notice of Determination - Inyo County

To: Office of Planning and Research
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
 Sacramento, CA 95914

From (Public Agency): Inyo County Planning Department
 P.O. Drawer L
 Independence, CA 93526

County Clerk
 County of Inyo
 P.O. Box F
 Independence, CA 93526

FILED

MAR 31 2014

INYO CO. CLERK
 KAMMI FOOTE, CLERK

BY  DEPUTY

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Continuation of Pumping for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 2007-03/Coso Operating Company, LLC (the "Hay Ranch Water Extraction & Delivery System" project). (SCH # 2007101002)

Project Applicant: Coso Operating Co., LLC, PO Box 1690, Inyokern, CA 93572
 (Phone: 760-764-1300)

Project Location: The project extends from Coso's Hay Ranch property in Rose Valley, across Bureau of Land Management lands, to Coso's geothermal plant located in the northwest area of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station.

Project Description: The CUP project involves pumping water from two existing wells at Coso's Hay Ranch property in Rose Valley for injection into the Coso geothermal field. The CUP and Hydrological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (HMMP) for the project, which were permitted by the County in May of 2009 concurrently with certification of an associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR), provide a mechanism to monitor groundwater levels and revise the groundwater level triggers, pumping rate, and duration of pumping for the project to ensure less than significant impacts. The Water Department has been monitoring pumping pursuant to the HMMP, and on August 30, 2013, issued correspondence approving extension of pumping at a rate of 3,040 acre-feet/year (afy) until June 30, 2014, subject to revised groundwater level triggers. Mr. Gary Arnold, on behalf of Little Lake Ranch, LLC appealed this decision. On January 27, 2014, Mr. Arnold submitted an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors. On March 25th, 2014, the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing and denied the appeal. In extending the duration of pumping at a rate of 3,040 afy, the same standards for assessing significant impacts were used as were used during the permitting process and as specified in the project EIR and HMMP. None of the requirements for a subsequent environmental document specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 exist.

Project Action: The Inyo County Water Department issued correspondence approving extension of pumping at a rate of 3,040 acre-feet per year on August 30, 2013. Mr. Gary Arnold appealed extension to the Planning Commission, which denied the appeal on January 22, 2014. Mr. Arnold subsequently appealed the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors, which denied the appeal on March 25, 2014.

Project Contact Person: Elaine Kabala, Associate Planner, 760-878-0265

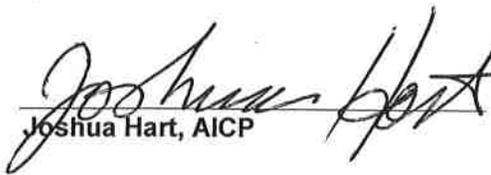
Lead Agency: Inyo County Planning Department

Summary:

This is to advise that the Inyo County Water Department approved continuation of pumping on August 30, 2013. An appeal to the Planning Commission was filed by Mr. Arnold; the Planning Commission denied the appeal on January 22, 2014. Mr. Arnold subsequently appealed the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors, which denied the appeal on March 25, 2014. The Board previously made the following determinations regarding the project:

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 No CEQA documents necessary for this application, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR and record of project approval is available to the General Public at offices of the Inyo County Planning Department, 168 N. Edwards Street, Independence, California.



Planning Director, Inyo County Planning Dept.

March 31, 2014

Joshua Hart, AICP

Title

Date

Date received for filing at OPR:

14-00012