



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: 7020 1810 0002 0761 1930

December 31, 2021

Theresa Tran
Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA, 90013
TTran4@socalgas.com

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER 2004-0004-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DREDGED OR FILL DISCHARGES TO WATERS DEEMED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BE OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY LINE 2000/2001 FAULT ISOLATION – DILLON ROAD PROJECT (WDID 7A333236001), RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Dear Ms. Tran:

On November 22, 2021, the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas or Permittee) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order 2004-0004-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction*. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds that the dredge/fill discharges associated with the Line 2000/Line 2001 Fault Isolation – Dillon Road Project (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under Order 2004-0004-DWQ and may proceed with the Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order 2004-0004-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf) can be found on the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order 2004-0004-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order 2004-0004-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in an enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION:

The Project includes the installation of aboveground valves and actuators on existing natural gas transmission pipelines [Line 2001 (L2001) and Line 2051 (L2051)]. Additionally, the Project involves installation of two linebreaks, a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) panel, new utility power and communications infrastructure, and one hydrostatic test using approximately 5,000 gallons of water.

Work is planned within a drain that would be limited to grubbing, vegetation removal, and a small portion of one excavation measuring approximately 165 feet by 1 foot, to a depth of approximately 4 feet.

The unnamed drain (unnamed ephemeral stream) where the excavation will take place is a water of the State. The Project will temporarily impact a total of 0.03 acres/120 linear feet of the ephemeral stream as a result of dredge and fill activities. Once the work is complete, SoCalGas will restore the area to pre-construction contours.

Suitable habitat is present for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*). However, the majority of the work area has been previously disturbed. Pre-construction biological surveys and biological monitoring will be implemented to ensure avoidance of impacts to sensitive animal species. In addition, Best Management Practices described in Attachment A of the Application will be implemented to avoid impacts to fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project site is located near the city of Indio within unincorporated Riverside County, California. More specifically the site is located about one-quarter of a mile north of the intersection of Dillon Road and Landfill Road. The site is accessible from Dillon Road or by unnamed compacted dirt/gravel roads. Site access would occur via existing paved and unpaved access roads east of Dillon Road. Construction worker parking would occur along the east side of Dillon Road. The latitude and longitude of the Project site is listed below. Maps imagery showing the Project location and photographs are found in Attachment A of this Order.

Work Area	Latitude	Longitude
1-Dillon	33.738435 ° N	-116.163960 ° W

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

A fee of \$ 2,066 was received on November 29, 2021.

The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as category A - Fill and Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the enrollment of this Project under Order 2004-0004-DWQ, which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the Project, is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the

criteria for the following exemptions under the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.): Class 1, Existing Facility (§ 15301); Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (§ 15302), and Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (§15304). Additionally, no exceptions to the CEQA exemptions listed above apply.

The above-listed exemptions are supported by the Findings of Facts (Findings) set forth in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES:

The Permittee must implement the avoidance and erosion control methods as proposed in the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in Order 2004-0004-DWQ.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE:

Upon completion of the Project, the Permittee shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to no longer be enrolled under Order 2004-0004-DWQ. Attachment 2 to Order 2004-0004-DWQ contains the NOT form.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Kai Dunn, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8986 or at Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Paula Rasmussen
Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosures: 1) Attachment A Project Maps
2) Attachment B CEQA Findings
3) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

KD/

cc via email: Keith Chipman, SoCalGas,
KChipman@socalgas.com
John Riddell, Riverside Co. Division Environmental Health,
jriddell@rivcocha.org
Amy McNeill, Riverside Co. Flood Control,
ammcneil@rivco.org
Jay Olivas, Riverside Co. Planning and Development Department,
jolivas@rctlma.org
State Board CWA Section 401 WQC Program,
StateBoard401@waterboards.ca.gov

File: 7A333236001, RM4845850, SoCalGas Line 2000/Line 2001 Fault Isolation – Dillon Road Project, Order 2004-0004-DWQ

Attachment A
Project Maps



Figure 1. Regional map image depicting Project location (Google Earth, 2021).¹

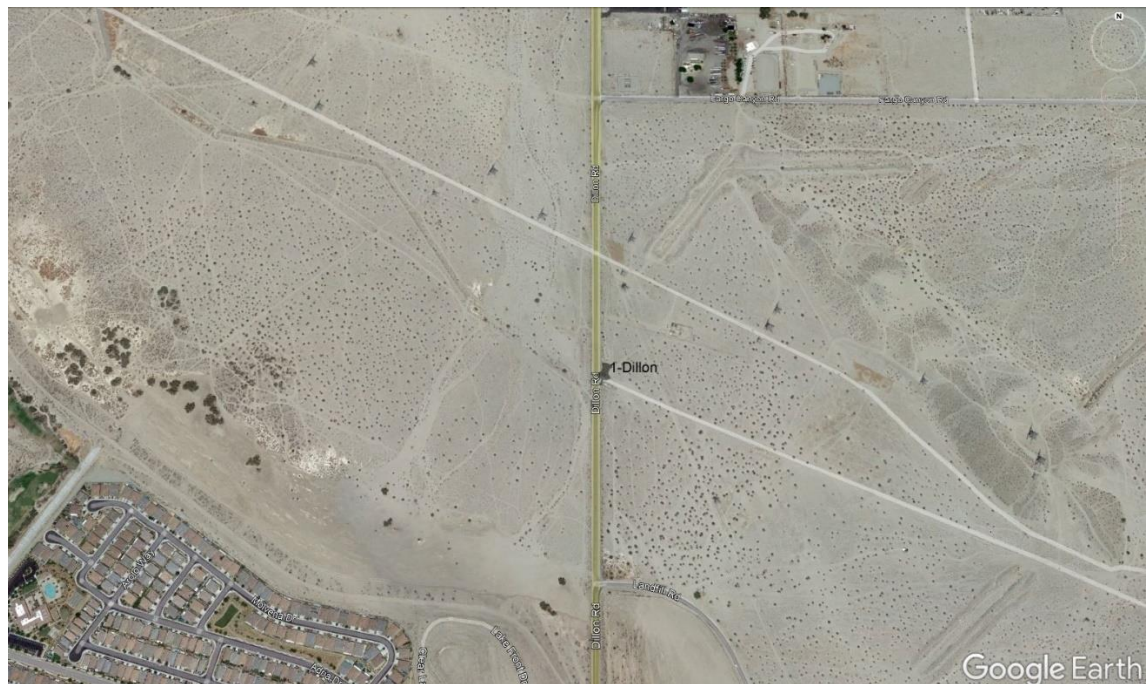


Figure 2. Local map image depicting Project location (Google Earth, 2021).

¹Google Earth, December 2021. Google Earth satellite imagery collected on December 16, 2021.



Figure 3. 1-Dillon Project Area and Jurisdictional Delineation (Rincon Consultants Inc., 2021²).

² Rincon Consultants Inc, 2021, Habitat Assessment for the Line 2000/Line 2001 Fault Isolation – Dillon Road Project, Riverside County, California. Dated November 5, 2021. SoCalGas NOI Application: Attachment A. Maps and photos taken from submitted material



Photograph 1. View of existing SoCalGas facility and conditions within the proposed work areas.
Photograph taken facing west. October 2, 2020.



Photograph 2. View of creosote brush scrub vegetation and unpaved road within Project Area.
Photograph taken facing southwest. October 2, 2020.



Photograph 3. View of east bank, north of Project Area. Photograph taken facing southwest. October 2, 2020.



Photograph 4. View of existing SoCalGas facility and west bank east of Dillon Road. Photograph taken facing northwest. October 2, 2020.



Photograph 5. View of existing SoCalGas facility facing east across Dillon Road. October 2, 2020.

Attachment B
CEQA Findings

A. Introduction

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the exemptions criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities), section 15302 (Replacement and Reconstruction), and section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

B. Findings

1. Applicable Categorical Exemptions

Under title 14, section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 1” categorical exemption where the proposed project “consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination” such as “(b) [e]xisting facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.”

Under title 14, section 15302 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 2” categorical exemption where the proposed project involves “replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities” including the “(c) [r]eplacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.”

Under title 14, section 15304 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 4” categorical exemption where the proposed project “consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation” including “(f) [m]inor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.”

The Project falls within the exemptions per section 15301 (Existing Facilities), section 15302 (Replacement and Reconstruction), and section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). The Project includes the installation/repair of existing mechanical equipment and testing pipeline integrity with negligible or no expansion of capacity. Minor alterations to the landscape limited to grubbing, vegetation removal, and a small excavation (trenching) are planned; however, once the Project work has been completed, SoCalGas will restore the site to pre-construction conditions.

2. No Exceptions to the Categorical Exemption Apply

There is no substantial evidence that any exceptions to the CEQA categorical exemptions listed above apply. Analysis of the relevant exceptions pursuant to section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are as follows:

- a. *Location. Class 4 is qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, this class is considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The Project occurs east of the city of Indio within unincorporated Riverside County, California. The Project would involve temporary impacts to one unnamed ephemeral stream; the work area will be restored to pre-Project conditions following Project completion. Impacts are anticipated to be short-term and less than significant. Furthermore, the Project falls within the exemption found in Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), which is not qualified by consideration of location.

- b. *Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

No significant cumulative impacts over time are anticipated. This Project a singular project and is not a part of a larger project.

- c. *Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

There are no “unusual circumstances” that would create a reasonable possibility of significant environmental impacts. The Project is being conducted near an established road that has been in use for some time. All construction will be performed under “no flow” conditions in the ephemeral stream to preclude potential impacts to water quality. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used that are appropriate for this type of project activity.

- d. *Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.*

The Project will not damage the scenic resources within the highway/route officially designated as a state scenic highway/route.

- e. *Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of Government Code.*

The Project site is located along an existing roadway that is not included on any list compiled pursuant to section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- f. *Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

There is no anticipated substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

C. Determination

The issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemptions criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities), section 15302 (Replacement and Reconstruction), and section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

The Colorado River Basin Water Board concludes that no exceptions to the CEQA exemptions listed above apply to the activities approved by this Order.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062.)