



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: 7020 1290 0001 22817 1546

December 15, 2021

Hazem Gabr
Southern California Edison (SCE) Right of Way
2244 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770
Hazem.Gabr@sce.com

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. 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, TD1662850 PIPES WASH POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT SECTION-3 (WDID NO. 7A363037001), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Dear Mr. Gabr,

On November 16, 2021, Southern California Edison (SCE or Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. 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 TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project Section-3 (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under Order No. 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) is attached and it can be found on the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage.

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

SCE is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. This project constitutes a necessary line extension of an existing circuit and there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge which have less adverse impacts than the proposed project.

The proposed Project involves removing and replacing one existing deteriorated wood pole (1742549E), installing two new poles (4852082E, 4852081E), and removing one existing wood pole and replacing it with a new pole in a slightly different location (2232447E - the new pole will have the same number as the nearby removed pole). Caissons may need to be installed to protect wood poles from high water tables or for stabilization in sandy or rocky situations.

The new poles will be set by a rubber-wheeled auger truck. The new holes will be dug using hand tools (e.g., shovels) or by a machine auger within a three-foot radius of the old pole or proposed new pole location. Excavated materials will be side cast in the adjacent upland area and temporarily stored on a tarp. The excavated materials will be replaced to bury the new structure, compacted and the surface recontoured to match existing grade. Standard excavation depths range between 6 and 10 feet with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet.

The Project will impact 0.2004 acres (0.0004 permanent/0.2 temporary)/258 linear feet of ephemeral drainages. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions. Permanent impacts associated with this Project would result from the installation of new pole structures and new caissons. Pole replacements (i.e., pole removal and replacement of a similar pole within 10-feet of the existing pole) is considered "like for like" and is not considered a permanent impact.

Although access is proposed over sections that have been identified as jurisdictional Waters of the State, no permanent or temporary impacts are anticipated to occur within these areas. Proposed access routes are sparsely vegetated, consist of a sandy substrate, and have been previously disturbed by off-road vehicular use. Equipment will consist of rubber-wheeled/rubber-tracked equipment and is not anticipated to impact the bed and bank of the channel. No grading or streambed alteration is proposed and impacts to vegetation within the streambed will be avoided. Additionally, no staging within the road prism will occur outside of the designated work areas.

Given the minor nature and impact of this Project, compensatory mitigation is not proposed. The installation of the poles is not expected to impact groundwater resources. Further, because the pole installation has nominal disturbance, the project is not expected to adversely affect any of the beneficial uses of Pipes Wash.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project (Section-3) is in an undeveloped desert canyon in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The Project is located northwest of the town of Yucca Valley, and is accessed by Pipes Canyon Road (which is paved), and by Chaparrosa Road (which is an unimproved dirt road off Pipes Canyon Road that traverses Pipes Wash). Proposed and existing Poles 2232447E, 4852082E, 1742549E, and 4852081E are a total of 1,182-feet and are located to the east of Chaparrosa Road. The overland travel will occur along previously disturbed overland travel routes through Pipes Wash, which have likely been used during prior pole/line maintenance work.

The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this Order.

Site No.	Latitude	Longitude
1	34.111376° N	-116.273298° W

De Number Latitude Longitude

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED

A fee of \$2,417.00 was received on December 13, 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 E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

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 exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

Pursuant to CEQA, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this Order and they are included in Attachment B.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The Discharger must implement the Temporary Impact Restoration Plan as proposed in the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Upon completion of the Project, Southern California Edison shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to be disenrolled under Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. Attachment 2 to Order No. 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 Maps
2) Attachment B CEQA Findings
3) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

KD/

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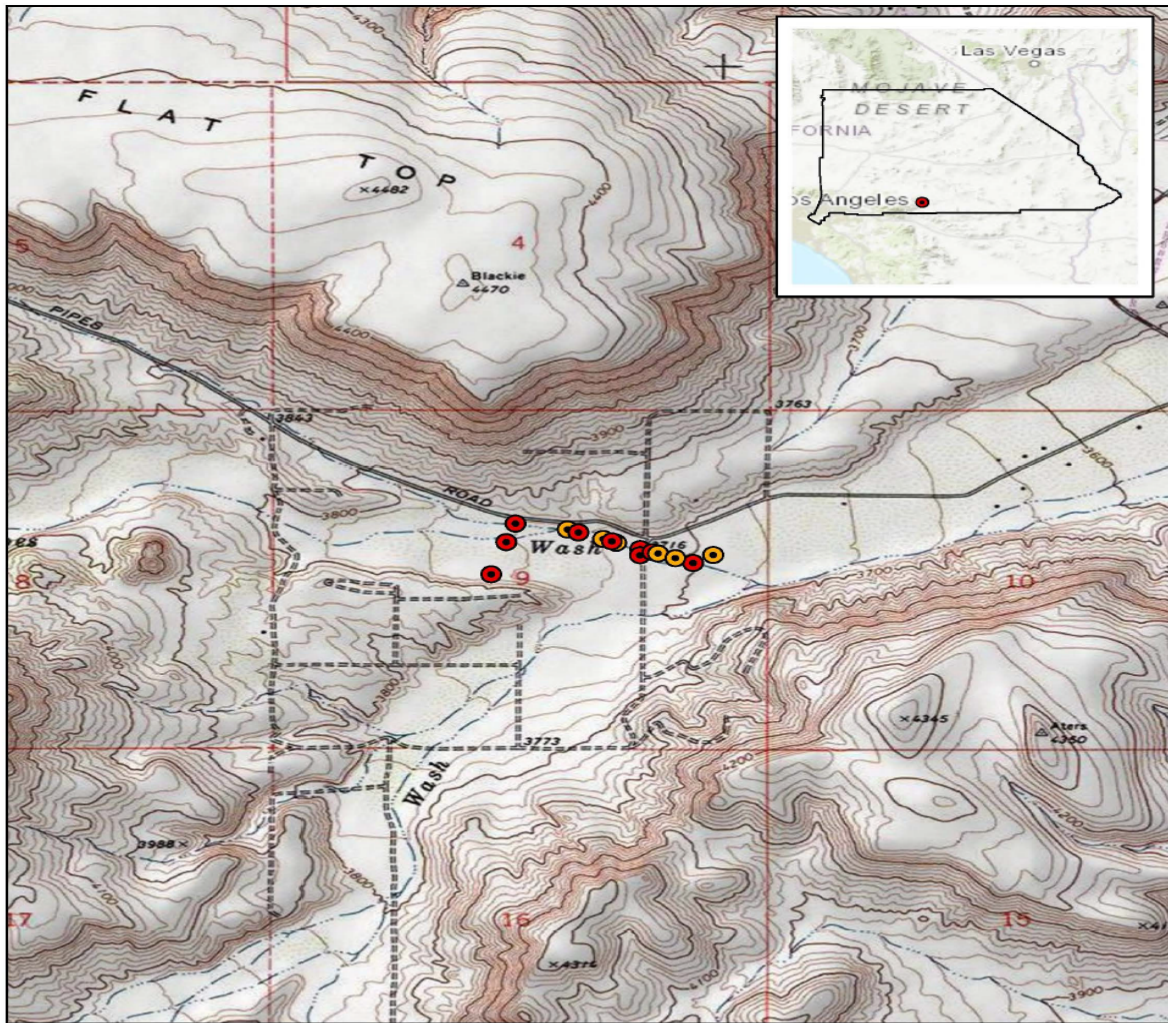
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File: 7A363037001, RM: 445742, Place ID:877610 SCE TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project Section-3 (Project), Order 2004-0004-DWQ(3)

**Attachment A
Project Maps**



Source: ESRI USA Topo Map and World Topo Map accessed October 2021 TD1662850 Pipes Wash Project

Figure 1. Regional Map

- SCE Utility Pole
- Existing Pole
- Proposed New Pole

Project Area is in an unincorporated part of San Bernardino County, approximately 1.5-miles northwest of the town of Yucca Valley, California on the USGS Yucca Valley North 7.5-minute quadrangle map in Section 09 of Township 01 North (T01N) and Range 05 East (R05E)

Center Coordinates (decimal degrees):
Latitude: 34.18750N Longitude: -116.46211W

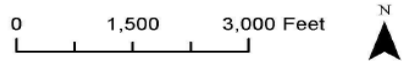


Figure 1: Regional Map¹

¹Southern California Edison, October 2021. Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project (Section-3).

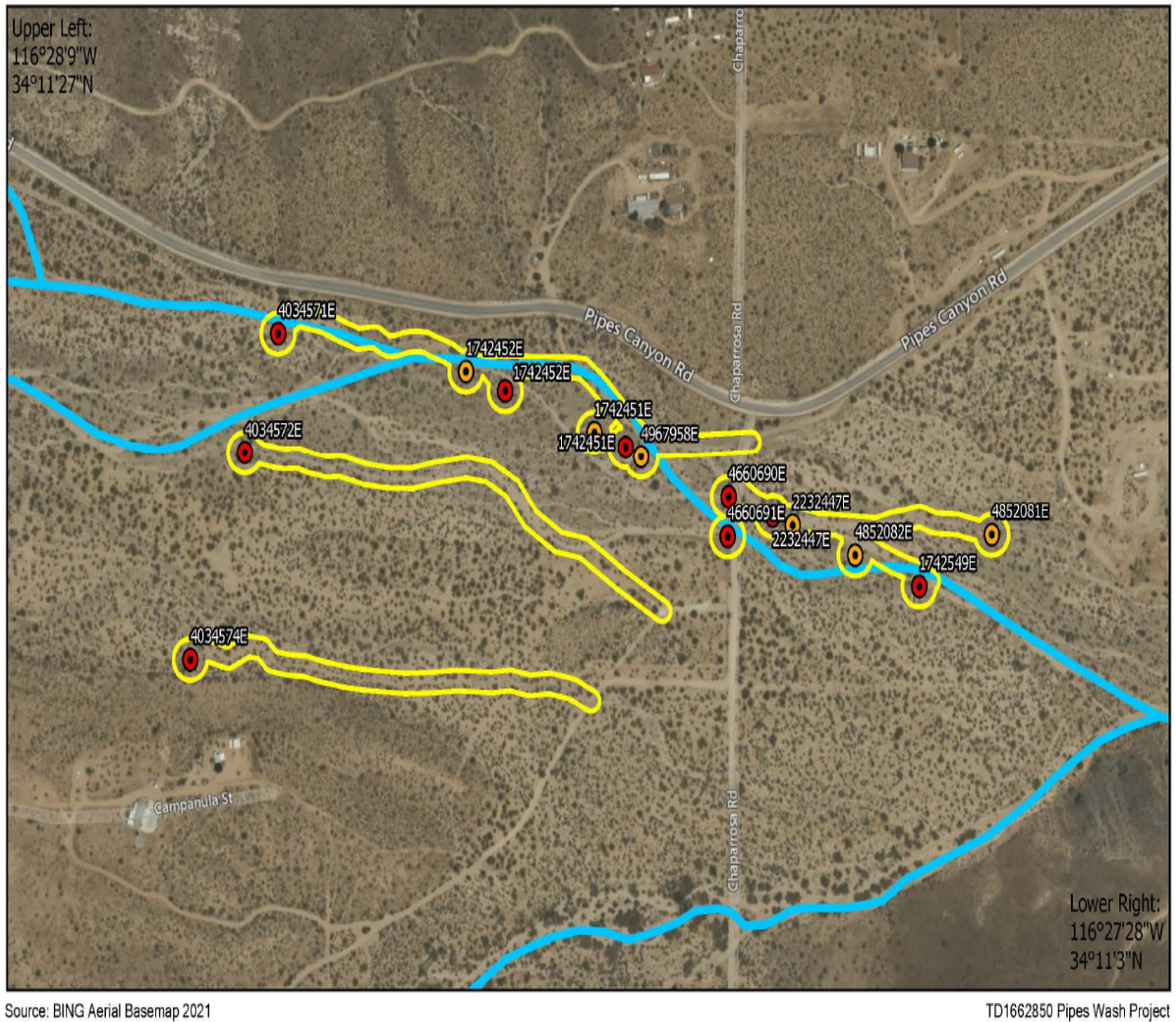
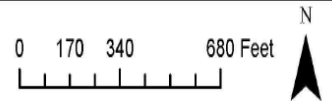


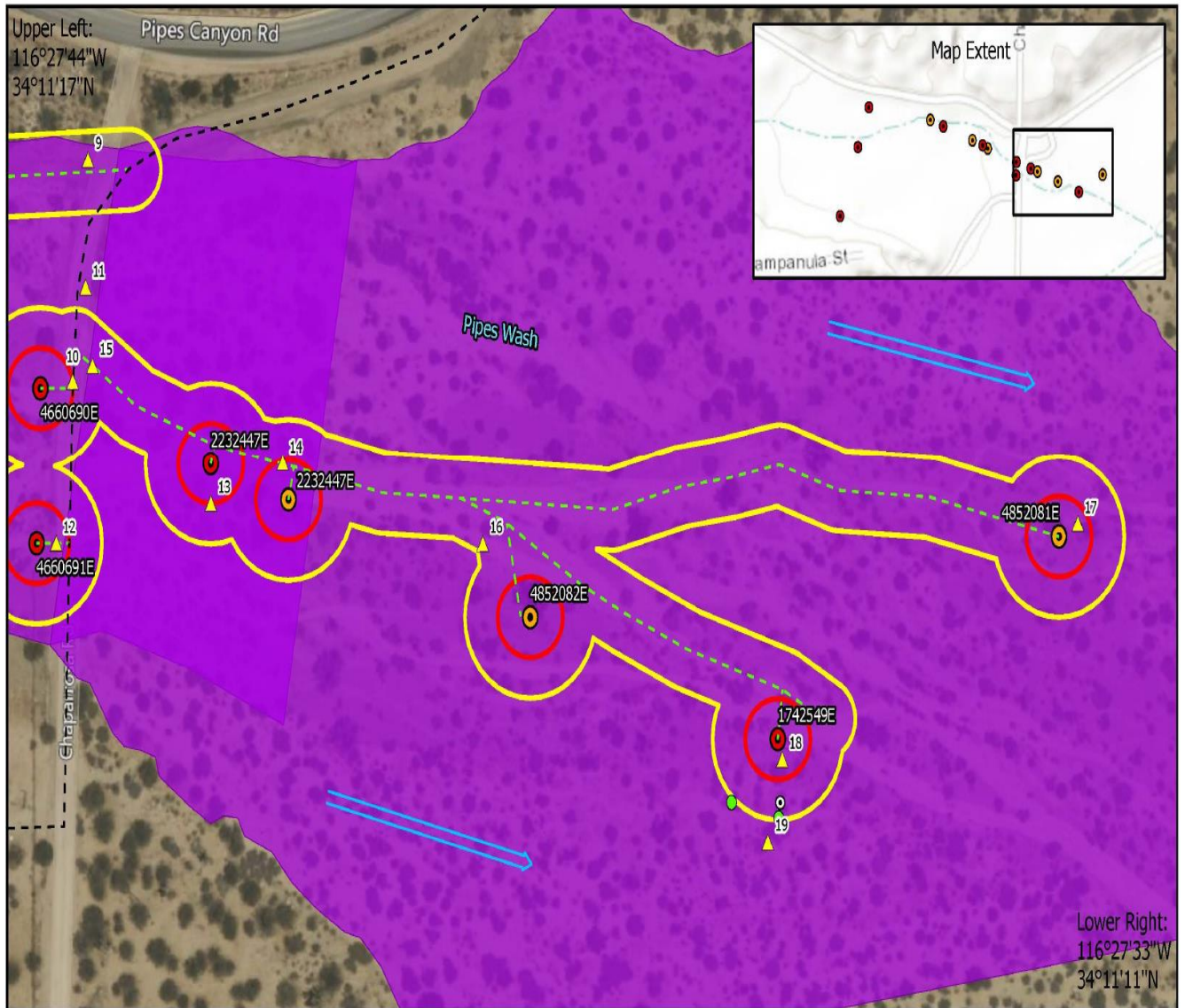
Figure 2. Vicinity Map and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)



-  Existing Pole
-  Proposed New Pole
-  Survey Area
-  National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) - Riverine



Figure 2: Vicinity Map and National Wetlands Inventory (Section-3)



Source: BING Aerial Basemap 2021

TD1662850 Pipes Wash Project

Figure 3C. Jurisdictional Delineation East End

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ● Western Joshua Tree (<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>) | ⊙ Existing Anchor | ➡ Flow Direction |
| ▭ Survey Area | - - - Access - Existing Dirt Road | ▭ Work Area |
| SCE Project Features | - - - Access - Overland Travel | ▭ CDFW and SWRCB Jurisdictional Area |
| ● Existing Pole | Jurisdictional Delineation | |
| ● Proposed New Pole | ▲ Photo Point | |

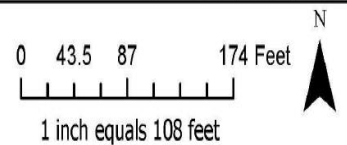


Figure 3: Jurisdictional Delineation East End (Section-3)

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 exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

B. Findings

Under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b), there is a statutory exemption for emergency projects that involve emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency. Additionally, under section 15269, subdivision (c), there is a statutory exemption for specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

SCE is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. This project constitutes a necessary line extension of an existing circuit and there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge which have less adverse impacts than the proposed project.

Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions. Permanent impacts associated with this Project would result from the installation of new pole structures and new caissons. Pole replacements (i.e., pole removal and replacement of a similar pole within 10-feet of the existing pole) is considered “like for like” and is not considered a permanent impact.

Given the minor nature and impact of this Project, compensatory mitigation is not proposed. The installation of the poles is not expected to impact groundwater resources. Further, because the pole installation has nominal disturbance, the project is not expected to adversely affect any of the beneficial uses of Pipes Wash.

C. Findings and Determination

The issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

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).