



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 23, 2016

Mr. Hazem Gabr
Water Quality Section Manager
Corporate Environmental Services
Southern California Edison
6040 A Irwindale Ave.
Irwindale, California 91702

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA) FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD GENERAL 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER NO. SB12002GN FOR US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 2012 CERTIFIED NATIONWIDE PERMITS.

FILE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, TD814181 SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA DETERIORATED POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332016-26)

Dear Mr. Gabr:

On August 18, 2016, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notice of Intent (NOI) form to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN (General 401 Order)¹, for the Southern California Edison TD814181 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (Project).

The proposed Project is located in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, approximately 3.2 miles northeast of the community of Lakeview in Riverside County, California. The proposed Project site is mapped on the El Casco, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic map, in Section 28 of Township 3 South, Range 2 West. The coordinates of the southernmost pole proposed for replacement are

¹ State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification for 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN, is found at - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nwp_401.pdf

latitude 33°52' 48.96" North, and longitude -117° 5' 49.54" West, and the coordinates of the northernmost pole are 33°52' 52.39" North and -117° 5' 44.59" West.

Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review under Section 15301 (b), which covers existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. Section 15304 Class 4, which provides an exemption for projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, also applies to the proposed Project. Regional Board staff also determined that the proposed Project meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for 2012 Certified Nationwide Permits.

Project Purpose and Description:

The construction activities proposed consist of the replacement of four deteriorated wooden power poles. Two poles to be replaced are currently located in upland habitat, and two are in waters of the United States (U.S.). The poles currently in waters of the U. S. will be relocated 25 feet to the west outside those waters. Overhead conductors on existing poles will be transferred to new poles. Pole replacement will disturb the soil in a 10 foot radius around each existing pole, and access to each pole will require disturbing the soil within 25 feet of each existing pole.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.080 acre and 100 linear feet of waters of the U.S. The Project shall be constructed and maintained using methods and avoidance and minimization measures described in application materials.

Receiving Water:	San Jacinto Wildlife Preserve Unnamed Pond
Filled Excavated Area:	Permanent Area Impacted: None Temporary Area Impacted: 0.080 acre waters of the U. S.
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: None Length Temporarily Impacted: 100 linear feet
Fill Volume:	None
Latitude/Longitude:	Southernmost Pole 33°52' 48.96"N/-117° 5' 49.54" W Northernmost Pole 33°52' 52.39"N/-117° 5' 44.59" W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project may proceed under the General 401 Order if the following conditions specified in General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB12002GN for 2012 Nationwide Permits are adhered to during the proposed activities:

- 1) All activities shall comply with all requirements of California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, §13000, et seq.) and applicable State or Regional Water Quality Control Plans. (SB12002GN Condition #4).
- 2) Water may not be diverted for Project activities. (SB12002GN Condition #6).
- 3) The proposed Project shall not result in the taking of any species listed as threatened or endangered or as a candidate for threatened or endangered listing under either the federal or California Endangered Species Act. (SB12002GN Condition #8).
- 4) Project activities may not take place in a Hazardous Waste site listed in Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (i.e., "Cortese List"). (SB12002GN Condition #10).
- 5) The total area of ground disturbance is limited to a maximum of five acres and utility line length is limited to a maximum of five miles. (SB12002GN Condition #14b).
- 6) Temporary impacts to waters of the State are limited to one-half acre and 400 linear feet. (SB12002GN Condition #14c).
- 7) Temporary impacts permitted by the General Certification shall last as short a duration as practicable, and in no case more than 90 days from the beginning of construction. Site restoration for temporary impacts to waters of the State shall be completed as soon as possible after completion of construction. These restoration activities will be completed no more than 30 days after end of construction. (SB12002GN Condition #14c).
- 8) Placement of work areas, including pull sites, laydown yards and staging areas, in waters of the State is prohibited (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 9) After construction, the hydrologic functions of the site will be restored. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 10) Trenching across streams with flowing water is prohibited. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 11) No drilling compounds, fluids, or "muds" may be discharged to waters of the State of California or United States. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 12) Only minor trimming of existing vegetation is allowed. No removal or substantial alteration of riparian vegetation is allowed. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 13) No new or expanded hardscape channel lining or bank armor is authorized. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
- 14) For any excavation, including utility line trenches, the top 6 to 12 inches of topsoil shall be removed and stockpiled separately during construction. Following construction, the topsoil shall be replaced and seeded with native vegetation. (SB12002GN Condition #14f).
- 15) New road construction is prohibited. Maintenance of utility line access roads under this NWP shall be confined to the previously existing road prism. Grading of throughcut roads, including any road having a running surface lower than the surrounding terrain on both sides of the road, is prohibited. (SB12002GN Condition #14f).

- 16) Any waiver of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conditions or regional conditions shall disqualify this Project from enrollment under the General Certification. (SB12002GN Condition #16).

In addition to the conditions of the General 401 Order, the Applicant is required to notify the Regional Board of the start of construction activities as well as the completion of construction activities.

Should there be any questions, please contact Jason Bill at (951) 782-3295 or jason.bill@waterboards.ca.gov, or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

Southern California Edison - Stephanie Fincher – Stephanie.Fincher@sce.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District - James Mace
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC- David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Jeff Brandt
U.S. EPA, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office – Melissa Scianni
U.S. EPA, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office - Elizabeth Goldmann