

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice
Of Application for Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB jurisdictions. The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

Applicant: Southern California Edison

Applicant Contact: Ms. Kristi Boken
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Project Name: El Casco System Project

Date of Application: 2/16/2009

Affected Regions: Region 7(Colorado River) and Region 8 (Santa Ana)

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
El Casco System Project**

On February 16, 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) received an application from Kristi Boken, on behalf of Southern California Edison (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities consisting of a phased project that includes the construction of the El Casco substation and associated access road, modifications to the existing Maraschino and Banning substations, connection of existing transmission lines to the proposed substation, as well as replacement and upgrade of a 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line situated between the existing Banning Substation and the El Casco facility. The proposed El Casco System Project includes the following components:

- Construction of a new Substation (El Casco Substation) on approximately 24 acres of land located within the Norton Younglove County Reserve adjacent to San Timoteo Canyon Road and approximately 5 miles east of Live Oak Canyon Road. The proposed site is currently accessible via a dirt access road off San

Timoteo Canyon Road. Construction of the Substation would also include the installation of a culvert consisting of a 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe that will accept surface runoff that has been redirected around the proposed Substation and into the drainage channel. The culvert will outlet onto riprap that is being placed at the same elevation as the existing grade within San Timoteo Creek.

- Realigning and paving the access road leading from San Timoteo Canyon Road to the El Casco Substation with asphalt. Road realignment will include elevation grade changes and sloping, and replacing a single existing culvert. The existing 24-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert will be replaced with a double 5-foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box culvert. The total opening will be 16 feet across by 5 feet deep. The new culvert will accept a 100-year flood event. The culvert will outlet onto riprap that is being placed at the same elevation as the existing grade within the San Timoteo Creek.
- Three bore casings, spaced ten feet apart, would be installed underground for approximately 250 feet beneath San Timoteo Creek, the adjacent railroad tracks, and San Timoteo Canyon Road. The applicant proposes to terminate the bore casings on the north side of the road in order to connect the proposed Substation to the existing facilities on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon road. The installation of the bore casings involves horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques. Location of the casings will be a minimum of eight feet below the flow line of the creek and twenty-five feet below the railroad tracks, as required by Union Pacific Railroad.
- Connection of an existing SCE 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Substation.
- Replacement of approximately 13 miles of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new, higher capacity double circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and replace support structures within existing SCE rights-of-way in the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County.
- Modify equipment within two existing substations (Maraschino and Banning) in the Cities of Banning and Beaumont.
- Install telecommunications equipment at the proposed Substation.
- Relocation of several existing power poles to reduce future disturbances to sensitive resources.

The proposed activities involve work within Waters of the U.S./State. Projected temporary and permanent effects to Waters of the U.S./State, including wetlands, are summarized in the following table.

| TABLE 1: Summary of Potential Effects To Waters of U.S./State | Temporary Impacts (acre/linear feet) | Permanent Impacts (acre/linear feet) | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ephemeral drainage | 0.615/3,9950. | 0.023/295 | |
| Wetlands | 0.22/301 | 0.042/121 | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Impacts | 0.835/4,296 | 0.065/416 | |

The applicant proposes to provide mitigation for project effects to resources by providing exotic plant removal and restoration within San Timoteo Creek in the Norton Younglove Reserve. Permanent impacts would be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio for non-wetland drainage and at a 5:1 ratio for wetlands. All temporary impact areas would be restored to their pre-project topography and vegetation.

A combination of avoidance and minimization mitigation measures are proposed to offset potential effects of project construction to wetlands and waters of the U.S. All feasible and practical measures will be undertaken to avoid or minimize impacts to seasonal wetlands and other waters during construction. The preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be included as part of the required mitigation.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Darren Bradford at (916) 341-5558, or at dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov, or Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464, or at borme@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

State Water Resources

Control Board Staff Contact:

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 Division of Water Quality
 State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.