

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 Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board 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 (SCE)

Applicant Contact: Hazem Gabr, Southern California Edison

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Project Name: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Segment 7&8: Chino Hills Underground

Date of Application: October 14, 2013

**Public Notice of Application for Issuance of
Water Quality Certification for the Southern California Edison
Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project
Segments 7 and 8: Chino Hills Underground**

Affected Counties: Los Angeles and San Bernardino

On October 14, 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application from SCE for issuance of a second amendment to the Water Quality Certification for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) Segments 7 and 8: Chino Hills Underground (CHUG). The application was deemed complete on December 11, 2013.

The State Water Board issued the original Water Quality Certification for TRTP Segments 7 and 8 on December 24, 2010. On February 15, 2011, SCE submitted a request to the State Water Board for an amendment to the Water Quality Certification for TRTP Segments 7 and 8 due to minor project changes and an increase in impacts to waters of the U.S. On July 13, 2011, the State Water Board issued the first amendment to the Water Quality Certification. On April 4, 2012, the State Water Board reissued the Certification for TRTP Segments 7 and 8, which included all Project changes that had occurred since the original issuance on December 24, 2010. The State Water Board received an application on April 8, 2013 from SCE for the

amendment of the existing Certification for the TRTP Segments 7 and 8. The State Water Board determined that the Project changes and proposed activities in the application qualify as a Certification Variance (later re-named Certification Deviation), and therefore does not require an immediate amendment of the Certification. On July 25, 2013, State Water Board staff issued a notice to SCE indicating that they qualify for a Certification Deviation with regard to Project changes.

The CHUG includes the construction of a new 500 kV underground transmission line along a portion of Segment 8, between Structure M60-T1X and Tower M64-T1Y. The western portion of the CHUG begins at Structure M60-T1X, a new double-circuit 500 kV lattice steel tower (LST), then continues 325 feet to the proposed Segment 8 Underground Western Transition Station (WTS). At this transition station, the transmission line will transition from an overhead configuration to an underground configuration. The transmission line will continue underground in a northeasterly direction for approximately 3.7 miles. Along the underground route, vaults will be installed to allow cable to be installed in the underground duct banks, which will be constructed via trenching and backfilling. In select locations, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be required to install cable beneath select features along the 3.7-mile underground route including two San Bernardino County flood control channels. The flood control channels will not be impacted by the HDD. At the HDD locations, the cable will be installed within bundled conduit in the boreholes. The transmission line will transition back from an underground to an overhead configuration at the proposed Eastern Transition Station (ETS). The transmission line will travel overhead from the ETS approximately 100 feet to Structure M64-T1Y, a new double-circuit 500 kV LST.

Activities associated with this project that will result in fill or excavation of waters of the U.S. and waters of the State include site preparation and temporary construction access, duct bank installation, stormwater management facilities, operations and maintenance vegetation management, and temporary water diversion. Impacts related to construction and operation of the Segments 7 and 8: CHUG project alignment include 0.27 acre and 625 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.53 acre and 1,161 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the State.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. 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 Bob Solecki at (916) 341-5483 or rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date Posted: December 17, 2013

State Water Resources

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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.