



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Colorado River Basin Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 4, 2009

Jill Fariss
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, #3A
Rosemead, CA 91770

Dear Mr. Fariss:

SUBJECT: ORDER FOR TECHNICALLY-CONDITIONED CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR DISCHARGE OF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIALS

PROJECT: Southern California Edison - Viminal DSP Project

APPLICANT: Southern California Edison

- ACTION:**
1. Order for Standard Certification
 2. Order for Technically-Conditioned Certification
 3. Order for Denial of Certification

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

The following standard conditions apply to all certification actions, except as noted above under Action 3 for denials.

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the California Water Code and Section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR).
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR Subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

California Environmental Protection Agency

3. The validity of any non-denial certification action (Actions 1 and 2) shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR Section 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.
4. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under State law. For purposes of Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401(d), the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Water Quality Certification (WQC).
 - a. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this WQC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including cost of the reports, shall be in reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
 - b. In response to any violation of the conditions of this WQC, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

The following additional conditions apply to this certification:

1. This WQC applies towards the proposed project as described in the 401 application received by the Regional Water Board on April 03, 2009. The Applicant shall provide the Regional Water Board and other interested agencies with written notification of any significant modifications made to the project prior to implementation of the modifications.
2. This WQC does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
3. This WQC does not authorize the Applicant or any associated party to trespass on any land or property unless the applicant has obtained written authorization or acquired a special use authorization permit from the land or property owner.
4. A copy of this WQC shall be provided to the appropriate onsite Supervisor for the Project. All personnel performing work on the proposed project shall be familiar with the content of this WQC. Copies of the WQC shall be readily available at the project



site at all times during periods of active work and shall be presented to regulatory agency representatives upon request.

5. The Applicant shall grant Regional Water Board staff, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to enter the project site at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this WQC and/or to determine the impacts the project may have on waters of the United States.
6. The proposed projects shall not be enlarged or extend beyond the proposed project impact area. The Applicant shall delineate the project boundaries and staging areas with stakes, flags and/or temporary construction fencing.
7. The area of vegetation and soil disturbance shall be restricted to the smallest extent possible.
8. Projects shall not discharge substances in concentrations toxic to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life or that produce detrimental physiological responses.
9. Projects shall not discharge waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in Title 22 CCR section 66261 and the California Water Code section 13173.
10. No oil, petroleum products, or rubbish shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the United States.
11. No equipment maintenance will be done within or near any stream channel where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter waters of the United States.
12. Equipment refueling shall not occur within waters of the United States.
13. Any oil or grease leaks shall be immediately cleaned up.
14. The Applicant shall ensure that all contaminated material and/or contaminated soil removed or excavated from the Project site is properly loaded, transported, and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.
15. Staging/storage areas for equipment and materials shall be located outside of waters of the United States.
16. The Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed and filled areas are adequately stabilized and protected from erosion and siltation by implementing appropriate soil stabilization, sedimentation and silt control measures.



17. Any flow diversion used during construction shall be designed in a manner to prevent pollution, minimize siltation, and shall provide flows to downstream reaches. Flows shall be maintained to support existing aquatic life and riparian wetlands and habitat that may be located upstream and downstream from any temporary diversion.
18. The Applicant shall restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient.
19. All temporary facilities and impacts shall be removed and restored to the preexisting conditions and contours to the extent practicable.
20. Construction related materials and wastes shall be removed from the project site upon completion of the project.
21. The Applicant shall submit Notice to the Regional Water Board within 60-days of completion of the Project. The Notice shall include: 1) a detailed summary of the mitigation and restorations activities implemented during the project and 2) provide photographic documentation that supports the information summarized in the Notice.
22. The Regional Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this WQC, after providing notice to the Applicant and/or responsible Site-Supervisor, if the Regional Water Board determines that the project fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this WQC.
23. The Applicant shall orally notify the Regional Water Board of any noncompliance that may impact the beneficial uses of waters of the United States, as soon as notification is possible and notification can be provided without substantially impeding measures necessary to stop and contain the unauthorized discharge.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8981 or jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov.



WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicants' project description and the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).

Sincerely,



Robert Perdue
Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control

JJM/tab

cc: Mark Durham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Office
Bill Orme, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Water Quality Certification Unit
David Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Thomas A. Vandenberg, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB

File: WDID No. 7A333093001, 401 CA Southern California Edison,



Mailing List:

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Note: (*) will e-mail electronic copy



PROJECT INFORMATION

Application Date: Received on April 03, 2009

Applicant: Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, #3A
Rosemead, CA 91770

Applicant Representative: ICF Jones & Stokes
1 Ada, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92618

Project Name: Southern California Edison - Viminal DSP Project

Project Start and Completion: Project start – June 2009
Project completion – October 2009

Project Description (purpose/goal):

The proposed project is to reduce the load from an existing overloaded circuit by installing a new underground circuit. The Viminal 12kV circuit is critical to ensuring that rolling blackouts do not occur in the Palm Springs area this year. All of the existing circuits are at their planned load limit. This may create major power issues in the Palm Springs area from lack of existing circuit capacity. Southern California Edison proposes to underground a new 12kV distribution circuit (Viminal 12kV circuit) along the east shoulder of Gene Autry Trail (north of Highway 111/Vista Chino) in the City of Palm Springs. The Viminal DSP project, as planned, will terminate at an existing distribution circuit in White Water Wash. The Viminal DSP Project would install approximately 750 feet of six 5-inch conduit bank parallel to Gene Autry Trail within the road shoulder right-of-way (ROW). The conduit would be encased in 20-inch by 24- inch concrete. The conduit along the east shoulder would lead to a new concrete vault, to be installed as part of the project. From the vault, approximately 147 feet of two 5-inch, one 3-inch, and 1-4/0 bare copper conduit bank would be installed under Gene Autry Trail to the west side of the road. The conduit would then attach to the existing east-west-aligned distribution circuit on the west side of the road. The existing pole located closest to Gene Autry Trail on the west side of the road would be removed and a new pole would be placed 10 feet farther to the west. The six 5-inch conduit bank would be installed in a trench dug with a backhoe. Concrete trucks would be used to pour the concrete encasement and flatbed trucks would be necessary to transport



material, conduit, vault, etc., to the project site. Installation of the two 5-inch, one 3-inch, and 1-4/0 bare copper conduit bank under Gene Autry Trail would proceed with an auger and jack under the existing road. A bore pit 10 feet wide by 25 feet long by 17 feet deep would be excavated on the east side of Gene Autry Trail and emerge within the road shoulder on the west side of the road.

Project Location:

City or Area: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
Longitude/Latitude: 33°51'09.69"N/116°30'20.97"W
Township/Range: T4S/R4E/Section 6/Palm Springs

Receiving Water(s): White Water Wash to White Water River to Salton Sea

**Fill/Excavation
Area (acres):**

An estimated 0.36 acres of streambed will be temporarily impacted.

Dredge Volume (cy): An estimated 532 cubic yards of material will be removed and replaced after the conduits are installed

Mitigation:

The following BMPs have been identified for implementation for the proposed project: vehicle and equipment maintenance, vehicle equipment cleaning, vehicle and equipment fueling, hazardous waste management, solid waste management, spill prevention and control, material use, material delivery and storage, scheduling, silt fence, dust controls, concrete waste management, stockpile management, wattles/fiber rolls.

Federal Permit(s): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Nationwide Permit 12 - Pending

Status of CEQA: This project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 Class 1(b). This Categorical Exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, involving negligible or no expansion of the use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agencies determination. The types of facilities covered under this exemption include utilities used to provide electric power. The proposed project involves the negligible expansion of an existing facility to service existing power demands in the Palm Springs area.

Reference No.: WDID No. 7A333093001