



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 23, 2010

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) NOTICE OF EXEMPTION:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SANTA ANA RIVER NO. 1 DIVERSION GABIONS
PROJECT, SANTA ANA RIVER AT PINEZANITA, SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS,
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY N 34.1611194°, W 117.0148944°**

Enclosed is a copy of a "CEQA Notice of Exemption, Appendix E" for the above-referenced project (Project). The Project consists of placing gabions at the toe of a diversion dam that supplies water to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Santa Ana River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project. The purpose of gabion placement is to stabilize the dam's footing (or "toe") from storm event erosion and scouring, as well as to provide SCE maintenance crews a stable walking route between the site's access road and the dam. The gabions will result in approximately 300 square feet (0.007 acre) of fill.

As the Regional Board is the only agency with discretionary approval over this Project, the Board is the Lead Agency for the purpose of CEQA compliance. We have determined that the Project qualifies for a Section 15301(d) Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) from the provisions of CEQA.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Robertson of our office at (951) 782-3259, or grobertson@waterboards.ca.gov

Sincerely,

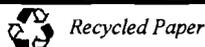
Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer

Enclosure: CEQA Notice of Exemption

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles - Jason Lambert

X:Groberts on Magnolia/Data/CEQA/CEQA Responses/ Notice of Exemption Cover, State Clearinghouse-SCE SAR No.1 Diversion Gabion Project.doc

California Environmental Protection Agency



CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Ste. 500
Riverside, California 92501

County of San Bernardino, Auditor/Controller-Recorder
San Bernardino County Branch Office
222 West Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0018

PROJECT TITLE: Santa Ana River (SAR) Diversion No. 1 Gabions Project

PROJECT LOCATION – SPECIFIC: Latitude N 34.1611194°, Longitude W 117.0148944° - San Bernardino Mtns, Unincorp. Pinezanita, SAR downstream from "SAR Diversion No. 1", upstream from Bear Creek confluence

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY: Vicinity of Pinezanita

PROJECT LOCATION – COUNTY: Unincorporated San Bernardino

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

Two sets of wire mesh baskets filled with rock (Hilfiker ArtWeld gabions) will be placed at the toe of a 61-foot-long diversion dam that supplies water to the Southern California Edison (SCE) SAR No. 1 Hydroelectric Project. The purpose of gabion placement is to stabilize the dam's footing (or "toe") from storm event erosion and scouring, as well as to provide SCE maintenance crews a stable walking route between the site's access road and the dam. The gabions will result in approximately 300 sqf (0.007 acre) of fill. The beneficiaries are SCE crews, through improved worker safety and direct access to the dam footing, and more broadly, SCE customers, through this measure to preserve the dam that generates electricity.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Southern California Edison; contact is Karl L. Osmundson (858) 514-1068

EXEMPT STATUS: (check one)

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: **Existing Facilities, Class 1 Categorical Exemption, Section 15301(d)**

Statutory Exemptions. State code number.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Conformance with Section 15301 and 15301(d) that the gabions will assist "operation, repair, maintenance,... or minor alteration of existing public or private structures... involving negligible or no expansion or use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination," and the "restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures... to meet current standards of public health and safety..." The 15301(d) prohibition--that damage not be substantial and not result from an environmental hazard, specific to this case, flood--is met because the use of this exemption is for ongoing erosion prevention and repair from lesser, more frequent storm events than discrete, stochastic floods. The project will not result in significant environmental impacts.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Glenn Robertson **Area Code/Telephone/Ext:** 951-782-3259

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Karl Osmundson **Date:** 9/23/10 **Title:** Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant