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MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 11, 2014

Hazem Gabr
Southern California Edison
1218 South 5th Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE VISTA-COLTON #3 66KV TRANSMISSION LINE POLE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT, COLTON, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
(ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 362013-18)**

Dear Mr. Gabr,

On November 12, 2013, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Southern California Edison for a project in the city of Colton, San Bernardino County, to replace four deteriorated wood transmission poles in caissons with four new light-weight steel poles in caissons. The applicant has also submitted a filing fee of \$944.00, which partially satisfies this project's fee requirement for considering a 401 Certification. This fee amount is determined using the Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) web site, which is based on the most current iteration of California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, section 2200 (a) (3). This letter responds to your request for certification that the proposed project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) (Basin Plan) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

Project Description:

The project consists of the removal of four existing 70-foot tall wooden transmission poles and 36 inch diameter corrugated steel pipe (CSP) caissons on the Vista-Colton #3 66 KV Transmission Line. The poles will be replaced with four 70-foot tall light-weight steel (LWS) poles and 36 inch diameter CSP caissons. All four pole removals and replacements will be conducted within non-wetland waters of the United States in the Santa Ana River at approximately the same location as the existing poles. In addition, one stub pole with a caisson will be replaced outside of jurisdictional waters, in uplands between the river and the Santa Ana River Trail and bike path.

WILLIAM RUH, VICE-CHAIR | KURT V. BERCHTOLD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The project will permanently discharge fill into 0.05 acre (fifty-two linear feet, which includes a thirteen foot diameter impact area around each of the four replacement poles) of Waters of the United States in the immediate area of the new caissons. Permanent impacts are due to the proposed construction of caisson foundations for the replacement LWS poles. The project will result in no net increase of permanent impacts to waters. Temporary impacts to 0.73 acre (1,750 linear feet) of non-wetland Waters of the United States will be caused by construction of temporary access roads for the subject project.

The work will take place within Section 29 of Township 1 South, Range 4 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *San Bernardino, South* quadrangle map (34.0498° N/ -117.3180° W).

Receiving waters: Santa Ana River

Fill area:

Temporary Impact to Streambed Habitat	0.73 acre	1,750 linear feet
Permanent Impact to Streambed Habitat	0.05 acre	52 linear feet

Dredge/Fill volume: Approximately 985 cubic yards

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 12

You have proposed to mitigate water quality impacts as described in your Certification application. The proposed mitigation is summarized below:

Onsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Standard water quality related best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction activities.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- None.

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State according to the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

The applicant has determined that this project is categorically exempt from the reporting requirements of CEQA, citing CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities. The project is categorically exempt under Class 1, Section 15301(b) because the proposed project will replace the existing transmission poles and caissons in kind and involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The project also qualifies for a Class 2, Section 15302 CEQA exemption for replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities. The Regional Board has considered the applicant's Categorical Exemption in the issuance of this Certification and independently finds that no changes or alterations to the proposed project are necessary to avoid or mitigate impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act section 404 permit.
- 2) Applicant shall ensure that all fees associated with this project shall be paid to each respective agency prior to conducting any on-site construction activities. Projects submitted after October 8, 2013, incur a base fee of \$1097, as well as, a discharge fee and an ambient monitoring surcharge fee. For further information, please refer to the Dredge & Fill Fee Calculator located at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/#wqcert
- 3) All materials generated from construction activities associated with this project shall be managed appropriately. This shall include identifying all potential pollution sources within the scope of work of this project, and incorporating all necessary pollution prevention BMPs as they relate to each potential pollution source identified.
- 4) The project proponent shall utilize BMPs during project construction to minimize the controllable discharges of sediment and other wastes to drainage systems or other waters of the state and of the United States.

- 5) Substances resulting from project-related activities that could be harmful to aquatic life, including, but not limited to, petroleum lubricants and fuels, cured and uncured cements, epoxies, paints and other protective coating materials, portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, and washings and cuttings thereof, and wastes from metal cutting or welding processes, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the state. All waste concrete shall be removed.
- 6) Motorized equipment shall not be maintained or parked within or near any stream crossing, channel or lake margin in such a manner that petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow conditions. Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in waters of the state on-site, except as necessary to complete the proposed project. No equipment shall be operated in areas of flowing water.
- 7) This Water Quality Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, state, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure to meet any conditions contained herein or any the conditions contained in any other permit or approval issued by the State of California or any subdivision thereof may result in the revocation of this Certification and civil or criminal liability.
- 8) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 9) Construction de-watering wastes, and discharges from temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction, shall not be discharged into a water of the U.S. unless they are regulated under Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0003, NPDES No. CAG998001, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimus) Threat to Water Quality." For more information, please review Order No. R8-2009-0003 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/

Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:

- (a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.

(b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

(c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.

If the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water quality problem, the Regional Board may require the applicant to submit a report of waste discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, 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 certification. Violations of the conditions of this certification may subject the applicant to civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13350 and/or 13385.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. 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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

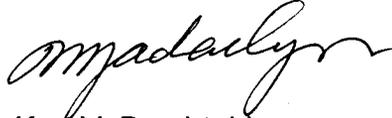
Hazem Gabr
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Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



for

Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc (via electronic mail):

Southern California Edison – Shirin Tolle – shirin.tolle@sce.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office- Mark Durham
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC- David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Russell M. Barabe
U.S. EPA- Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8