



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region



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Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

January 23, 2012

Hazem Gabr
Southern California Edison
1218 S. Fifth Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE SERRANO VALLEY 500 KV TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-
WAY PROJECT, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO.
NOT AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332011-14)**

Dear Mr. Gabr:

On August 5, 2011, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Southern California Edison (SCE) for its project to conduct maintenance within its Serrano Valley 500 Kv Transmission Right-of-Way (ROW). The project is located in the Temescal Canyon area of Riverside County. The project includes work to stabilize and protect the ROW road that provides access to SCE's transmission towers, stabilize the road where it crosses drainages, and redirect drainage away from the towers. 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 will reduce downstream sediment loading by stabilizing the eroded banks, caused by perennial drainages along the road that provides access to the transmission ROW and towers for maintenance and operation activities. In addition, the project will divert drainage away from a detention basin adjacent to Tower M20-T4 and back into the existing drainage channel. The project includes the reconstruction of a 14-foot-wide access road with a 2 percent slope and a 2-foot-wide drainage swale. At 33.7842°N, / -117.4928°W, a 6-foot-wide by 12-foot-long, 1-foot-thick wire mesh gabion mattress will be constructed to stabilize the drainage slope and divert flows toward the

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existing culverts. Riprap will be emplaced within the existing channel just east of Transmission Tower M21-T2. The riprap will consist of approximately 4 cubic yards of tightly packed, 6 to 18-inch rock. Near Transmission Tower M20-T5, a wire mesh gabion wall and mattress will be constructed. The gabion wall will be approximately 288 feet-long, constructed of 3-foot-wide by 3-foot-high by 6-foot-long wire mesh gabions. Also, a wire mesh gabion mattress approximately 282-feet long, constructed using 6-foot-wide by 12-foot-long by 1-foot-thick gabions, will provide toe protection at this location. A low water wet gabion crossing (42 feet by 42 feet) will be constructed across the existing access road. From the low water crossing within an unnamed ephemeral wash, which is tributary to Temescal Creek., Drainage flows will be diverted along an existing depression and a small channel that flows to the culvert underneath Interstate 15. The work will take place within Sections 32, 33, & 34 of Township 4 South, Range 6 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Corona South and Lake Matthews* quadrangle maps (33.7831° N/ -117.4949° W).

Receiving water: Temescal Creek and unnamed tributary stream channel

Fill area: 0.019 acres of temporary impact to streambed habitat (547 linear feet) 0.044 acres of permanent impact to streambed habitat.

Dredge/Fill volume: 0.71/cubic yards per foot 388.37 total cubic yards of fill

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 13

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.
- An on-site restoration plan will be developed prior to stabilization activities to help re-establish native upland and riparian vegetation along the drainage affected by the project. This will include placement of willow cuttings obtained from the local region, hydroseeding, and/or placing a 12 inch soil blanket over existing riprap. In

addition, a hydroseed mix of upland and riparian species will be applied on exposed slopes.

- Applicant shall ensure all mitigation efforts will adhere to an agency approved post-construction Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring Plan.

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 Game 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 requirements of Order No. R8-2010-0033 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618033), commonly known as the Riverside County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2010-0033 requires that you substantially comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Southern California Edison has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA, and qualifies for a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities "Class 1" exemption. "Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion, of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination." The Regional Board has independently considered SCE's CEQA determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA, and is in agreement with it.

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) 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.

- 3) Proposed mitigation shall be timely implemented.
- 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, 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) A copy of this Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained on site for the duration of work as a denoted element of any project SWPPP or WQMP.
- 9) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 10) Applicant shall ensure all procedures and policies specified within the project's WQMP, shall adequately address any hydraulic conditions of concern generated during and as a result of this project.
- 11) Applicant shall follow all procedures and policies specified within the project's proposed Mitigation Plan.

- 12) Construction de-watering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction may be regulated under Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0003, 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/
- 13) 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

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.

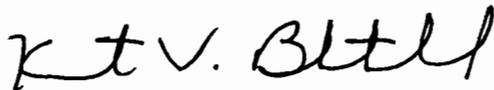
In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean 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/wqo_2003-0017.pdf

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

Sincerely,



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

cc (via electronic mail):

Southern California Edison – Shirin Tolle
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office -Jason Lambert
Department of Fish and Game -Juan J. Lopez-Torres
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel-David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit
U.S. EPA -Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WT

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