



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 7, 2016

Mr. Hazem Gabr
Water Quality Section Manager
Southern California Edison
6040 A Irwindale Ave.
Irwindale, California 91702

hazem.gabr@sce.com

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA) FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD GENERAL 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER NO. SB12002GN FOR US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 2012 CERTIFIED NATIONWIDE PERMITS

FILE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, VISTA-ALUMAX-HUNTER 66KV TD724719 DETERIORATED POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 362016-04, CIWQS #: 822523)

Dear Mr. Gabr:

On January 26, 2016, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notice of Intent (NOI) form to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN January 26, 2016¹ (General 401 Order), for the Southern California Edison Vista-Alumax-Hunter 66kv TD724719 Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (Project).

The proposed Project site is located south of Interstate 215, north of the Riverside Canal, west of Taylor Street, and east of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the city of Grand Terrace, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed Project site is mapped on the San Bernardino South, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic map, within Section 5 of Township 2 South, Range 4 West. Approximate coordinates of the Project location are latitude 34° 1' 38.10" N, and longitude -117° 19' 52.04" W.

¹ State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification for 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN, is found at - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nwp_401.pdf

Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review under Section 15301 (b), which covers existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. Section 15304, Class 4, which provides an exemption for projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, also applies to the proposed Project. Regional Board Staff has also determined the proposed Project meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for 2012 Certified Nationwide Permits.

Project Purpose and Description:

The proposed Project consists of the replacement of four deteriorated wooden power poles on the Vista-Alumax-Hunter 66kV TD7244719 powerline. New poles would be set immediately adjacent to the existing poles. Overhead conductors will be transferred from the existing poles to the new poles. The Project will not include any land or vegetation clearing.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.009 acre of stream channel, waters of the U.S. The Project shall be constructed and maintained using methods and avoidance and minimization measures described in the application materials.

Receiving Water:	Unnamed Tributary of Santa Ana River, Reach 4
Filled Excavated Area:	Permanent Area Impacted: None
Temporary Area Impacted:	0.009 acre stream channel
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: None Length Temporarily Impacted: 43 linear feet
Fill Volume:	None
Latitude/Longitude:	34° 1' 38.10" N/-117° 19' 52.04" W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project may proceed under the General 401 Order if the following conditions specified in General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB12002GN for 2012 Nationwide Permits and applicable to your Project are adhered to during the proposed activities:

- 1) All activities shall comply with all requirements of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, §13000, et seq.) and applicable State or Regional Water Quality Control Plans. (SB12002GN

- Condition #4).
- 2) Water may not be diverted for Project activities. (SB12002GN Condition #6).
 - 3) The proposed Project shall not result in the taking of any species listed as threatened or endangered, or as a candidate for threatened or endangered listing under either the federal or California Endangered Species Act. (SB12002GN Condition #8).
 - 4) Project activities may not take place in a Hazardous Waste site listed in Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (i.e., "Cortese List"). (SB12002GN Condition #10).
 - 5) The total area of ground disturbance is limited to a maximum of five acres, and utility line length is limited to a maximum of five miles. (SB12002GN Condition #14b).
 - 6) Temporary impacts to waters of the State are limited to one-half acre and 400 linear feet. (SB12002GN Condition #14c).
 - 7) Temporary impacts permitted under the General Certification shall last as short a duration as practicable, and in no case more than 90 days from the beginning of construction. Site restoration for temporary impacts to waters of the State shall be completed as soon as possible after completion of construction. The restoration activities shall be completed not later than 30 days after end of construction. (SB12002GN Condition #14c).
 - 8) Placement of work areas, including pull sites, laydown yards and staging areas, into waters of the State is prohibited (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 9) After construction, the hydrologic functions of the site will be restored. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 10) Trenching across streams with flowing water is prohibited. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 11) No drilling compounds, fluids, or "muds" may be discharged to waters of the State of California or United States. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 12) Only minor trimming of existing vegetation is allowed. No removal or substantial alteration of riparian vegetation is allowed. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 13) No new or expanded hardscape channel lining or bank armor is authorized. (SB12002GN Condition #14e).
 - 14) For any excavation, including utility line trenches, the top 6 to 12 inches of topsoil shall be removed and stockpiled separately during construction. Following construction, the topsoil shall be replaced and seeded with native vegetation. (SB12002GN Condition #14f).
 - 15) New road construction is prohibited. Maintenance of utility line access roads under this Nationwide Permit shall be confined to the previously existing road prism. Grading of throughcut roads, including any road having a running surface lower than the surrounding terrain on both sides of the road, is prohibited. (SB12002GN Condition #14f).
 - 16) Any waiver of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conditions or regional conditions shall disqualify this Project from enrollment under the General Certification. (SB12002GN Condition #16).

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In addition to the conditions of the General 401 Order, the Applicant is required to notify the Regional Board of the start of construction activities as well as the completion of construction activities.

Should there be any questions, please contact Jason Bill at (951) 782-3295 or jason.bill@waterboards.ca.gov, or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

Southern California Edison - Jason Lambert – jason.lambert@sce.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District - James Mace
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC - David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ - Water Quality Certification Unit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Jeff Brandt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory
Office – Jason Brush WTR-2-4