

State Water Resources Control Board

**REVISED
PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, NOTICE OF ADOPTION HEARING
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
ANTELOPE TRANSMISSION PROJECT: SEGMENT 3B
KERN COUNTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public hearing/adoption meeting to accept oral testimony on a proposed Order for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Southern California Edison's Antelope Transmission Project: Segment 3B. After hearing all testimony, the State Water Board will take action on the proposed Order. The location and time of the hearing are provided below:

**August 21, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna, Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
State Water Resources Control Board
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814**

BACKGROUND

The proposed Order has been prepared in response to an application for the Antelope Transmission Project: Segment 3B (Project) submitted by Southern California Edison (SCE) on April 3, 2012. The application was deemed complete on May 11, 2012.

The Order covers the proposed discharge of structural materials and/or earthen wastes (fill) to all or portions of several natural watercourses within the Freemont and Antelope Hydrologic Units (HUs) determined to be waters of the state as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code. SCE has requested an approved Jurisdictional Determination (JD) from the Corps that indicates the delineated waters on the Project lack federal jurisdiction and Project activities in waters would not require authorization under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). A final written JD is pending from the Corps. Regardless of the Corps determination, the waters affected by the Project are waters of the state, as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code, and are therefore subject to state requirements. Should some Project areas be subject to federal jurisdiction, this order shall also serve as the water quality certification issued pursuant to section 401 of the CWA.

The Project is part of the larger Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) which includes a total of 173 miles of transmission line segments along new and existing rights-of-way in southern Kern County, portions of Los Angeles County (including the Angeles National Forest), and the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County, California. The Project is the last component of the Antelope Transmission Project Segments 1, 2, and 3 to be constructed and provides connectivity to Segment 10 of the TRTP. The Project incorporates approximately 9.6 miles of 220 kilovolt transmission line, a new substation (Highwind Substation), and approximately 75 tubular steel poles and two lattice steel tower transmission structures. All of these structures, plus proposed access roads and any other supporting equipment, are collectively referred to as the Project alignment.

The Project alignment is primarily located within the Antelope Valley and traverses the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Regional Water Board) region in southern Kern County. Drainages within the Project alignment are largely ephemeral watercourses that typically originate in the foothills and along steep slopes, with much of the low-lying areas being subject to flash flooding. The northern portion of the Project alignment, including the Highwind Substation, is located in the East Tehachapi Hydrologic Area (HA) 625.30 in the Fremont Hydrologic Unit (HU) 625.00, which includes the receiving waters of Proctor Dry Lake and Mendibury Creek. The southern portion of the Project alignment is located in the Chafee HA in the Antelope HU (HU 626.00), which includes the receiving waters of Oak Creek and Rosamond Dry Lake.

Temporary impacts will result from construction activities related to the installation of new Project structures (transmission towers, outfall structures at Highwind Substation, McCarthy drains, riprap, gabion retaining walls, and concrete v-ditches), temporary access roads, guard poles, wire stringing, zinc ribbons for Alternating Current Gas Pipeline Mitigation, crane pads, and other minor activities. Permanent impacts will result from the installation of the tower footings and other new structures, access roads, paved wet crossings, and the new Highwind Substation. The Project will affect 27 drainages that are waters of the state. Impacts to waters of the state within the Project alignment total 0.19 acre of permanent impacts and 0.20 acre of temporary impacts. SCE proposes to mitigate for temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the state. The mitigation plan has been made part of the proposed Order.

The proposed Order also includes requirements for discharges of wastes in storm water associated with construction activity. SCE is currently enrolled under the California General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (State Water Board Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAS000002, as a Linear Underground/Overhead Project Type 1). SCE prepared two stormwater pollution prevention plans, one for the Segment 3B transmission line (Waste Discharger Identification [WDID] No. 6B15C362656) and one for the Highwind Substation (WDID No. 6B15C361498).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The proposed Order is available to view or download under the title of “**Draft WDRs for ATP Segment 3B**” on the State Water Board’s Web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices.shtml

Alternatively, you may receive a paper copy in the mail by contacting Rachael Tadlock at (916) 341-5506 or rtadlock@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the Draft WDRs. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on August 17, 2012** and addressed to:

**Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then submit by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: **"Comment Letter – Draft WDRs for ATP Segment 3B."**

Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Participants are encouraged to submit written comments prior to the hearing, in accordance with the deadline specified above. At the hearing, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. To ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited.

For other presentation recommendations, go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml at the State Water Board's Web site. Questions concerning the hearing may also be directed to Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

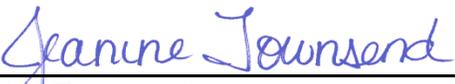
The Joe Serna, Jr.-Cal/EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the meeting will be available via the Internet and can be accessed at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>.

All visitors to the Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this proposed Water Quality Order, you may contact Bill Orme: borme@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5464.

Date July 18, 2012



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board