



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Water Quality

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2010-XXXX-DWQ

### WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT: SEGMENTS 4, 5, AND 10 KERN AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Draft Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Permit for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segments 4, 5, and 10 (Project). In order for State Water Board members to consider written comments, all written comments must be received by **8:00 a.m. on December 15, 2010** 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 to the Clerk to the Board via email at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Comment Letter – Draft WDRs for TRTP Segments 4, 5, and 10.**" Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel in the Cal-EPA Building at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA. They may also contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600, if needed.

**NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the State Water Board will hold a public hearing/adoption meeting to accept oral testimony on the draft WDRs. After hearing all testimony, the State Water Board plans to take action on the draft WDRs. The location and time of the hearing are provided below.

**December 15, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**State Water Resources Control Board/CalEPA Headquarters Building**  
**Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor**  
**1001 I Street**  
**Sacramento, California 95814**

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

## **BACKGROUND**

The draft WDRs have been prepared in response to an application for WDRs submitted by Southern California Edison (SCE) on February 26, 2010, which the Board deemed complete on April 7, 2010.

The proposed WDRs cover the proposed discharge of structural materials and/or earthen wastes (fill) to all or portions of fifty-eight natural or man-made watercourses determined to be waters of the State as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination was requested from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for all waters impacted by the Project on February 26, 2010. The Corps gave verbal confirmation to State Water Board staff on July 21, 2010 that all impacted waters were not under the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Final written approval from the Corps is expected in November 2010. However, additional coordination with the Corps indicates that 6 impacted features in the Santa Clara-Calleguas Hydrologic Unit (Features 5-31-S-1, 5-32-S-2, 5-33-S-1, 5-34-S-7, 5-36-S-1 and 5-37-S-1) may have a hydrological connection to the Santa Clara River. A significant nexus evaluation is needed to determine if these features are waters of the U.S. and subject to regulation under Sections 401 and 404 of the CWA.

The Project is part of the larger Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) which includes multiple segments and one proposed substation. The Project incorporates approximately 50 miles of 500-kV transmission line, 4 miles of 220-kV transmission line, and 328 transmission structures. All of these structures, plus proposed access roads and any other supporting equipment, are collectively referred to as the project alignment.

The Segments 4, 5, and 10 project alignment is primarily located within the Antelope Valley and traverses both the Lahontan and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Regions. Drainages within the Segments 4, 5, and 10 project alignment are primarily isolated, ephemeral, dry washes and non-riparian streambeds with the exception of Amargosa Creek. The drainages are located in the Chafee, Willow Springs, Neenach, Lancaster, and Rock Creek Hydrologic Areas of the Antelope Hydrologic Unit in the Lahontan Region, and within the Upper Santa Clara River Hydrologic Area of the Santa Clara-Calleguas Hydrologic Unit in the Los Angeles Region.

Impacts to drainages would be a result of temporary wire setup sites (for pulling, splicing, and stringing wire), construction work areas around tower structures, new access roads, and modifications to existing access roads where they cross water features (drainage modifications).

Impacts to waters of the State within the Segments 4, 5, and 10 project alignment total 0.18 acre of permanent impact and 0.41 acre of temporary impact. Most of the temporary impacts occur as a result of maintenance grading on existing access roads. The Discharger proposes to mitigate for temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the State. The proposed mitigation has been made part of the permit. In addition, the Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting Program for the WDRs requires monitoring for revegetation and stabilization of waters of the State which were temporarily impacted/filled during construction activity at the site.

The Discharger filed a Notice of Intent for each of the three project segments to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. CAS000002, for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit). Here are the WDID numbers for each of the three project segments that are enrolled under the Construction General Permit: Segment 4 - WDID# 6B19C359492 [Lahontan Regional Board]; Segment 5 - WDID#s 6B19C359493 [Lahontan Regional Board] and 419C359494 [Los Angeles Regional Board]; Segment 10 - WDID# 6B15C359003 [Lahontan Regional Board]. This Order also includes requirements for discharges of wastes in storm water associated with construction activity.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The proposed Water Quality Order No. 2010-XXXX-DWQ is available to view or download on the State Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/notices.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices.shtml)

Alternatively, you may receive a paper copy in the mail by contacting Lydia Deller at (916) 341-5506 or [ldeller@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ldeller@waterboards.ca.gov)

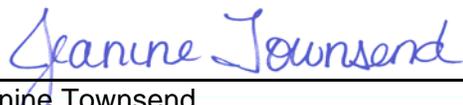
**ACCESSIBILITY**

Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the meeting date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.

HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1 800-735-2929; voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

If you have any questions regarding this proposed Water Quality Order, you may contact Robert Solecki at (916) 341-5483 or [rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov).

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November 16, 2010  
Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board