

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Southern California Edison (SCE)

**Applicant Contact:** Hazem Gabr, Southern California Edison

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**Project Name:** Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 500 kV Transmission Line Project (DPV2)

**Date of Application:** December 17, 2012

**Public Notice of Application for Reissuance of  
Water Quality Certification for the Southern California Edison  
Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 500 kV Transmission Line Project**

Affected Counties: Riverside

On February 13, 2011, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a Certification for DPV2. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) had enrolled the Project under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12. However, the Corps NWPs expired on March 18, 2012. On March 19, 2012, the Corps reissued forty-eight of forty-nine existing NWPs and all of the general conditions and definitions, with some additions and modifications. As a result of these events, the State Water Board is now planning to reissue the Certification for DPV2, which will include all the Project modifications that have occurred since the original Certification was issued on February 13, 2011. The re-issued Certification will incorporate the original Certification for the project that was issued on February 13, 2011, as well as the project modifications presented in SCE's permit application for reissuance on December 17, 2012.

The Project as modified involves construction of a new 110-mile, 500 kV electric transmission line between SCE's existing Devers Substation, near the City of Palm Springs, California, to the Colorado River Substation (CRS) located 10 miles southwest of the City of Blythe, and to build a new, 42-mile, 500 kV transmission line between the Devers Substation and SCE's existing

Valley Substation near the City of Menifee, California. The entire proposed project would span approximately 153 miles in Riverside County, California. Temporary impacts include activities associated with wire setups, fiber-optic wire setups, guard structures, helicopter landing zones, construction yards, tower footprints, and temporary construction areas. Permanent impacts include stub roads, daylight for stub road construction, rip rap and gabion wet crossings, and tower footings. Existing access roads may need to be graded or may require vegetation trimming to accommodate construction vehicles. Construction of the new CRS will not impact waters of the state. Project construction activities will result in the fill of waters of the U.S. and waters of the state.

The original Certification for the Project covered 1.01 acres and 1,750 linear feet of permanent impacts and 15.99 acre and 25,150 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. Total impacts to waters of the U.S. have not changed since the original Certification was issued.

Some modifications that have occurred along the Project alignment since the original Certification was issued involve minor changes in engineering (in coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission [CPUC]) that have resulted in minor insignificant changes in impact type from permanent to temporary or vice versa and shifts in impact areas due to the refinement of engineering plans. These shifts involve minor changes in impact area configuration within the same waterbody and at the same tower site. There are no new waterbodies impacted by these minor shifts in impact areas. As a result of engineering refinements, an increase in temporary and/or permanent impacts to state and federal waters was noted at a total of 71 tower sites. In order to prevent an increase in total impacts to state and federal waters at each tower site, these potential new impact areas were flagged by biologists for avoidance during construction.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Solecki at (916) 341-5483 or [rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Date Posted: February 7, 2013**

**State Water Resources**

**Control Board Staff Contact:**

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Water Quality Certification Unit,

Division of Water Quality

State Water Resources Control Board

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**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**