

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: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Line Project (TRTP): Segment 6

Date of Application: October 5, 2012

**Public Notice of Application for Reissuance of
Water Quality Certification for the Southern California Edison
Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Line Project: Segment 6**

Affected Counties: Los Angeles, Kern

On August 23, 2011, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a Certification for the SCE TRTP Segment 6. 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 TRTP Segment 6, which will include all the Project modifications that have occurred since the original Certification was issued on August 23, 2011. The re-issued Certification will incorporate the original Certification for the project that was issued on August 23, 2011, as well as the project modifications presented in SCE's permit application for reissuance on October 5, 2012.

The Project as modified involves construction of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure along the Project alignment, which extends from the Vincent substation (near State Route 14), just north of the northern boundary of the Angeles National Forest (ANF), to the south 0.33 miles outside the southern boundary of the ANF (northeast of the City of Duarte). The Project

occurs within the jurisdiction of two Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards): the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Regional Water Board) and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Water Board). However, it appears the Project may only have impacts to waters of the U.S. within Los Angeles Regional Water Board boundaries. The Project involves installation of transmission towers, related structures, and transmission line. Project construction requires developing and grading wire setup sites (for pulling, splicing, stringing wire), helicopter yards, construction work areas, and access routes. 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 0.41 acre and 4,725 linear feet of permanent impacts and 4.45 acres and 16,815 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. Impacts to waters of the U.S. have changed since the original Certification was issued. These project modifications for Segment 6 include an increase of 0.02 acre and 262 linear feet of permanent impacts plus a decrease of 0.004 acre and increase of 44 linear feet of temporary impacts to USACE/State Water Board non-wetland waters of the U.S. As a result, the reissued Certification addresses 0.43 acre and 4,986 linear feet of permanent impacts and 4.44 acres and 16,893 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the U.S.

Some modifications that have occurred along the Project alignment since the original Certification was issued include reduction or removal of impact types, changes in impact type from permanent to temporary or vice versa, shifts in impact areas, or additional minor impacts. These modifications were triggered by refined Project engineering plans, additional construction contractor input regarding construction methods and feasibility, and updated or new jurisdictional feature mapping at impact locations.

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

Date Posted: January 18, 2013

State Water Resources

Control Board Staff Contact:

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State Water Resources Control Board

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