

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

**Public Notice of Application for  
Waste Discharge Requirements**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determined that the waters on the Project site are not under federal jurisdiction. Therefore, the waters are not subject to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), and a Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction is not required. However, the waters are still under state jurisdiction (California Water Code, Section 13050); and subject to waste discharge requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny waste discharge requirements for discharges to waters 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 Project: Segment 9 – Whirlwind Substation, Kern County, File No. SB10001IN

**Date of Application:** December 4, 2013

**Public Notice of Application for Amendment of  
Waste Discharge Requirements for the Southern California Edison  
Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segment 9 – Whirlwind Substation**  
Affected Counties: Kern

On March 23, 2011, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2004-0004-DWQ General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDRs) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) Segment 9 – Whirlwind Substation (Project). The proposed amendment is being prepared in response to an application for an amendment to the current NOA of GWDRs submitted to the State Water Board by SCE on January 4, 2013. The application was deemed complete on April 5, 2013.

The Project has been completed; however, the compensatory mitigation strategy identified in the current NOA has changed. Mitigation will no longer be performed through the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee mitigation bank located in Kern County. SCE will now purchase appropriate mitigation lands that support the type of habitats and waters impacted by the Project and transfer these lands to a mitigation sponsor to manage in perpetuity. The current mitigation

site anticipated for purchase includes parcels adjacent to the existing Fremont Ecological Reserve, in California City. The acquired parcels will be protected in perpetuity by transferring the parcel titles to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The small 0.03 acre, 390 linear foot, ephemeral desert wash that was permanently impacted by Project construction was not under the jurisdiction of the Corps due to its nature as an isolated feature that is not tributary to a navigable water. However, the ephemeral wash is a waters of the state, as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code, and is therefore subject to state requirements.

The Project is part of the larger 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. This Project specifically involves the modification of existing substations as well as the construction of the new Whirlwind Substation. The Whirlwind Substation includes both 500 kilovolt (kV) and 220 kV switchyards to accommodate connecting two different types of electrical transmission lines in the area. The 500 kV switchyard is the terminal point for 500 kV transmission lines from/to the Antelope, Midway, Vincent, and Windhub Substations. The 220 kV switchyard is the terminal point for future transmission lines and also includes two 220 kV, 79.2 Megavolt-Amps Reactive capacitor banks. The Project covers a total area of 124 acres in Kern County, California.

The Project involves a total of 0.03 acre and 390 linear feet of permanent impacts to waters of the state.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Solecki at (916) 341-5483 or [robert.solecki@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:robert.solecki@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Date Posted: April 9, 2013**

**State Water Resources**

**Control Board Staff Contact:**

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