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## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: **7018 0680 0002 0102 5411**

September 6, 2024

Victoria Parsons, Water Quality Section Manager  
Southern California Edison  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue GO-1, Environmental Services  
Rosemead, CA 91770  
[Victoria.Parsons@sce.com](mailto:Victoria.Parsons@sce.com)

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER 2004-0004-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DREDGED OR FILL DISCHARGES TO WATERS DEEMED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BE OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION, TD1961873 DEVERS – HI DESERT – YUCCA DETERIORATED POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID NO. 7A363054001), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

Dear Ms. Parsons,

On March 29, 2024, Southern California Edison (SCE or Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction* (General Order). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds that the dredge or fill discharges associated with the TD1961873 Devers – Hi Desert - Yucca Deteriorated Pole Replacement (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under the General Order and may proceed with the Project in accordance therewith.

A copy of the General Order is attached. The General Order can also be found on the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf).

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of the General Order. You are responsible for complying with all applicable requirements. Failure to comply with the General Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the General Order.

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PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

Southern California Edison is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading, and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure safe, reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. The purpose of the Project is to install a new Tubular Steel Pole (TSP) within SCE's right of way.

The work location will be accessed via an existing dirt road and overland travel. An approximately 0.24 acre work area will extend 130 feet south from an existing dirt road to the pole installation location. The installation will require excavation of up to 30 feet in depth and 7 feet in diameter to accommodate a poured concrete foundation. Excavated soils will be stockpiled on adjacent tarps and excess spoils will be removed from the project site for disposal. Concrete will be delivered via ready-mix trucks. Once the foundation for TSP 4964326E has been poured and cured, a crane will be staged approximately 50 feet northwest of TSP 4964326E to move the pole components into place. Once the TSP 4964326E has been installed, conductor wires will be attached.

The area of direct soil disturbance (i.e., excavation, side casting and backfill) would be limited to approximately 10 feet around the pole, as well as a general 25 foot temporary work area for the staging and operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Equipment includes a tracked large diameter auger machine, a skid steer or backhoe, concrete truck, dump truck, rubber wheeled lift trucks, crane, and various hand tools.

The Project will result in 0.059 acres and 249 linear feet of temporary impacts to Colorado River Basin Water Board jurisdictional waters of the state. No permanent impacts were identified. Upon Project completion, the disturbed area will be returned to pre-Project contours.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located on private land near the intersection of Rice Avenue and Palm Vista Drive in the unincorporated community of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County, California. The Project area is within Section 31, Township 1 North, Range 7 East of the USGS Joshua Tree North quad.

The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this Order.

Site	Latitude	Longitude
1	34.129495°	-116.284799°

### **APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED**

Payment for the application fee in the amount of \$ 2,985 was received on March 29, 2024. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as a Category E - Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the enrollment of this Project under the General Order, which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the Project, is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the criteria for a Class 1 exemption (§ 15301, Existing Facilities) under the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.).

Pursuant to CEQA, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the enrollment of this Project under the General Order and they are included in Attachment B.

### **AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES**

The Discharger must implement the measures identified in the Restoration Plan submitted with the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order.

### **TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

Upon completion of the Project, SCE shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to be disenrolled under the General Order. Attachment 2 to the General Order contains the NOT form.

Southern California Edison  
TD1961873 Devers –Hi Desert – Yucca  
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363054001  
Reg. Meas. ID: 456406  
Place ID: 894218

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Logan Raub, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8966 or at [Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Paula Rasmussen  
Executive Officer  
Colorado River Basin  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosures: 1) Attachment A Project Maps  
2) Attachment B CEQA Findings  
3) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

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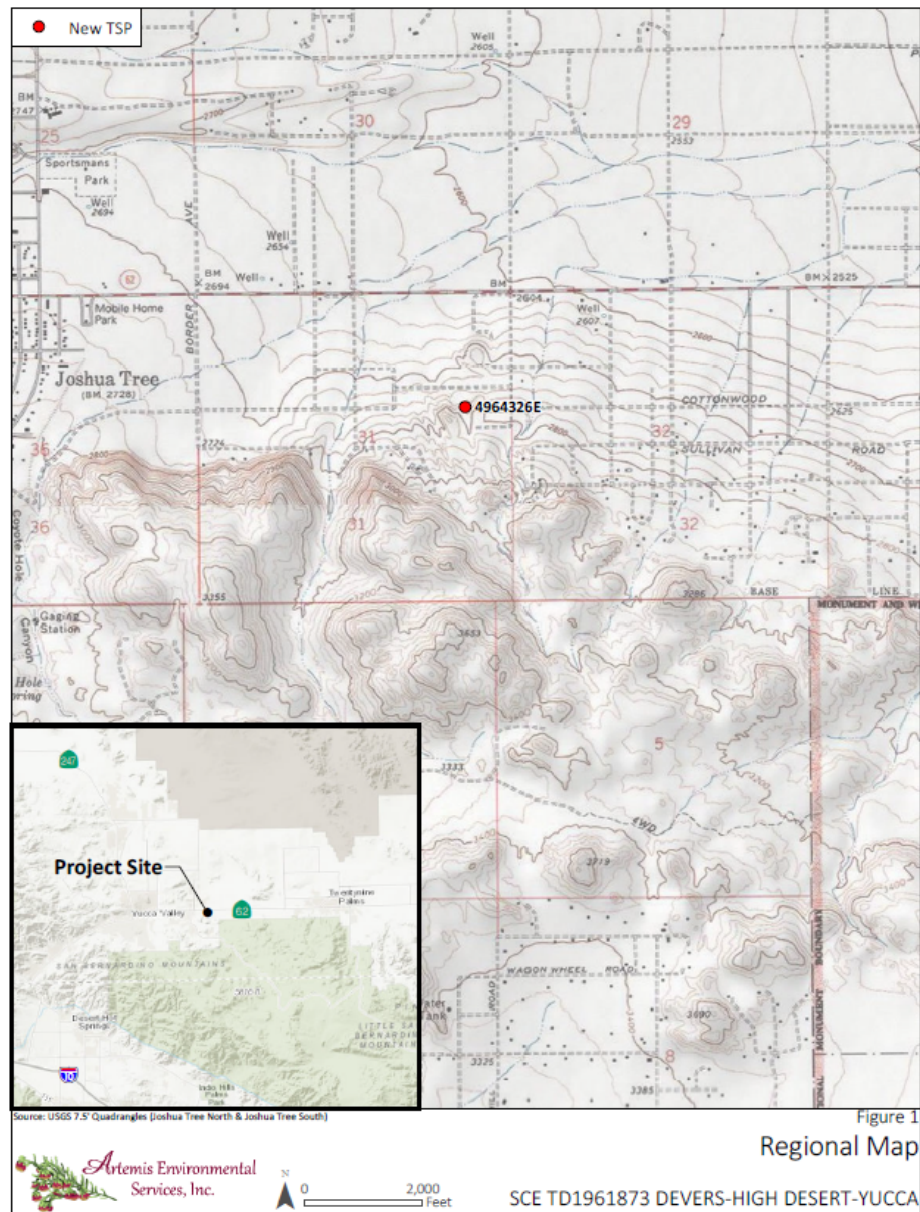
File: WDID: 7A363054001, RM: 456406, Place ID: 894218, TD1961873 Devers – Hi Desert - Yucca Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, Order 2004-0004-DWQ

cc: [via email only] (with enclosures):

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U.S. Bureau of Land Management: [BLM\\_CA\\_Web\\_CD@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Web_CD@blm.gov)  
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [matt\\_hamman@fws.gov](mailto:matt_hamman@fws.gov)  
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 6: [Heather.Brashear@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Heather.Brashear@wildlife.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Water Resources: [bob.pierotti@water.ca.gov](mailto:bob.pierotti@water.ca.gov)  
401 Program, DWQ, State Water Resources Control Board:  
[Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery: [WPCMDivision@Calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:WPCMDivision@Calrecycle.ca.gov)

## ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment A: Project Maps

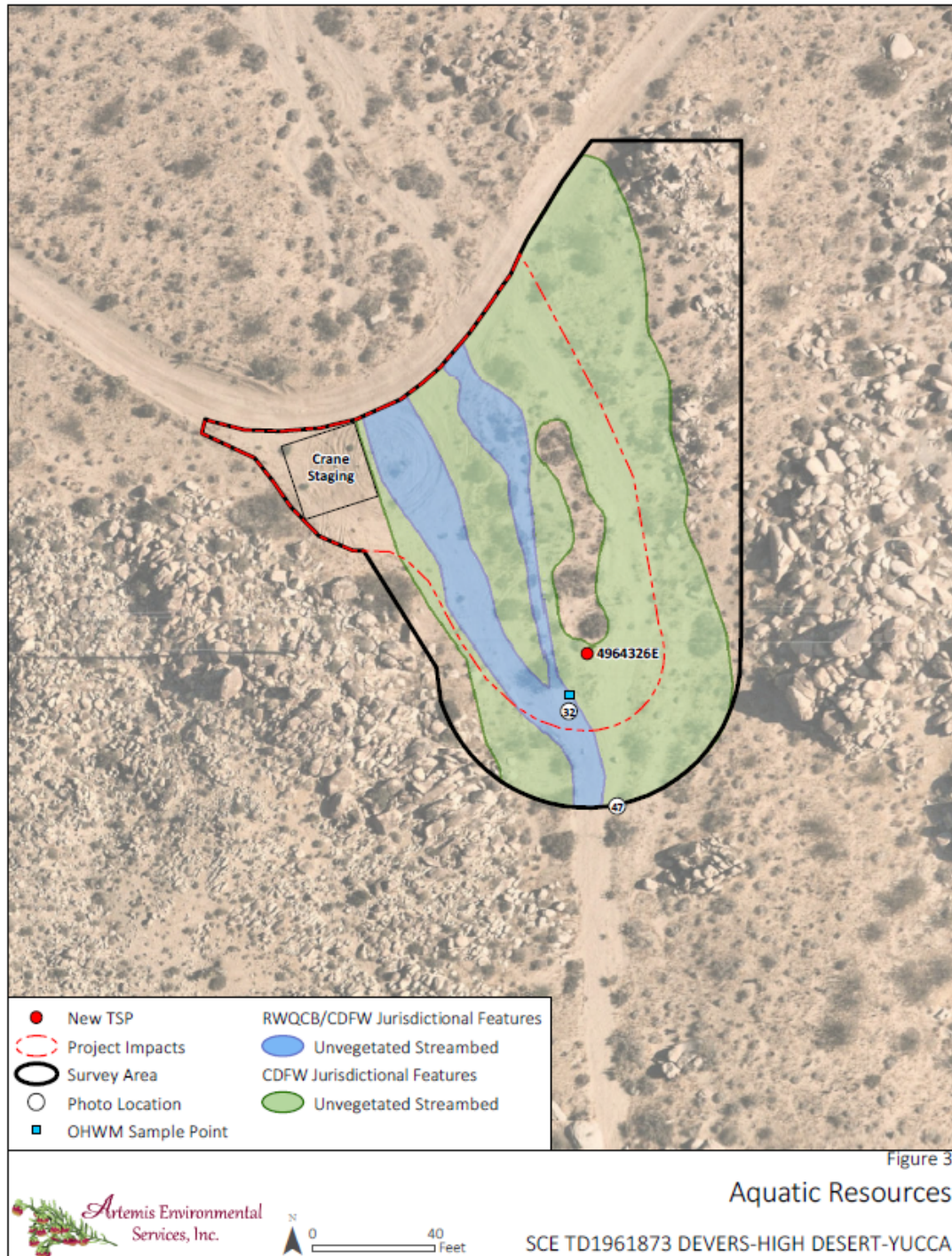


**Figure 1: Regional Location Map (SCE, 2024)<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Southern California Edison, March 2024. Figures and photos submitted by SCE with the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD1961873 Devers – Hi Desert -Yucca Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, received by the Regional Water Board on March 29, 2024.



Figure 2: Vicinity Map



**Figure 3:** Mapped Jurisdiction and Jurisdictional Impacts.



**Figure 4:** Photograph of the location of TSP4964326E, looking northwest.



**Figure 5:** Photograph of the location of TSP4964326E, looking southeast.

## **Attachment B: CEQA Findings**

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### **I. Findings**

Under title 14, section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 1” categorical exemption where the proposed project “consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination” such as “(b) [e]xisting facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.”; and “(d) [r]estoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.” The Project falls within the exemption per section 15301 (Existing Facilities), because the Project involves maintenance of existing investor-owned utilities used to provide electric power. The Project will not result in an expansion of use. No Exceptions to the Exemption apply.

### **II. Determination**

The enrollment of this Project and the activities described meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

The Colorado River Basin Water Board concludes that no exceptions to the CEQA exemption listed above apply to the activities approved by this NOA. The Colorado River Basin Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five working days. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062.)

Southern California Edison  
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**Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ**

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A copy of Order No. 20040004-DWQ can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html)