NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER 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, TD1662850 PIPES WASH POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT SECTION-1 (WDID NO. 7A363035001), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Dear Mr. Gabr,

On November 16, 2021, 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.

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/fill discharges associated with the TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project Section-1 (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ and may proceed with the Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of Order 2004-0004-DWQ (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wgo/wgo2004-0004.pdf) is attached and it can be found on the State Water Board’s Adopted Orders webpage.
Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

SCE is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. This project constitutes a necessary line extension of an existing circuit and there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge which have less adverse impacts than the proposed project.

The proposed Project involves removing and replacing three existing deteriorated wood poles (4034571E, 4034572E, 4034574E) and removing one existing wood pole and replacing it with a new pole in a slightly different location (1742452E - the new pole will have the same number as the nearby removed pole). Caissons may need to be installed to protect wood poles from high water tables or for stabilization in sandy or rocky situations.

The new poles will be set by a rubber-wheeled auger truck. The new holes will be dug using hand tools (e.g., shovels) or by a machine auger within a three-foot radius of the old pole or proposed new pole location. Excavated materials will be side cast in the adjacent upland area and temporarily stored on a tarp. The excavated materials will be replaced to bury the new structure, compacted and the surface recontoured to match existing grade. Standard excavation depths range between 6 and 10 feet with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet.

The Project will impact 0.1803 acres (0.0003 permanent/0.18 temporary)/256 linear feet of ephemeral drainages. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions. Permanent impacts associated with this Project would result from the installation of new pole structures and new caissons. Pole replacements (i.e., pole removal and replacement of a similar pole within 10-feet of the existing pole) is considered “like for like” and is not considered a permanent impact.

Although access is proposed over sections that have been identified as jurisdictional Waters of the State, no permanent or temporary impacts are anticipated to occur within these areas. Proposed access routes are sparsely vegetated, consist of a sandy substrate, and have been previously disturbed by off-road vehicular use. Equipment will consist of rubber-wheeled/rubber-tracked equipment and is not anticipated to impact the bed and bank of the channel. No grading or streambed alteration is proposed and impacts to vegetation within the streambed will be avoided. Additionally, no staging within the road prism will occur outside of the designated work areas.

Given the minor nature and impact of this Project, compensatory mitigation is not proposed. The installation of the poles is not expected to impact groundwater resources.
Further, because the pole installation has nominal disturbance, the project is not expected to adversely affect any of the beneficial uses of Pipes Wash.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The Project (Section-1) is in an undeveloped desert canyon in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The Project is located northwest of the town of Yucca Valley, and is accessed by Pipes Canyon Road (which is paved), and by Chaparrosa Road (which is an unimproved dirt road off Pipes Canyon Road that traverses Pipes Wash). Proposed and existing Poles 4034571E and 1742452 E are located to the west of Chaparrosa Road. In addition, existing Pole 4034572E is 1,374 feet west of Chaparrosa Road, and existing Pole 4034574E is 1,254 feet west of Chaparrosa Road. The overland travel will occur along previously disturbed overland travel routes through Pipes Wash, which have likely been used during prior pole/line maintenance work.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>34.111554° N</td>
<td>-116.275831° W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED**

A fee of $2,417.00 was received on December 13, 2021.

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 category E - Low Impact 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 Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

Pursuant to CEQA, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this Order and they are included in Attachment B.
AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES
The Discharger must implement the Temporary Impact Restoration Plan as proposed in the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE
Upon completion of the Project, Southern California Edison shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to be disenrolled under Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. Attachment 2 to Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ contains the NOT form.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Kai Dunn, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8986 or at Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By ____________________________
Paula Rasmussen
Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

KD/

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File: 7A363035001, RM: 445740, Place ID:877608 SCE TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project Section-1 (Project), Order 2004-0004-DWQ
Attachment A
Project Maps

Figure 1: Regional Map

1Southern California Edison, October 2021. Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD1662850 Pipes Wash Pole Replacement Project (Section-1).
Figure 2. Vicinity Map and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
Figure 3A. Jurisdictional Delineation Northwest End

- Western Joshua Tree (Yucca brevifolia)
- Survey Area
- SCE Project Features
  - Existing Pole
  - Proposed New Pole
- Access - Existing Dirt Road
- Access - Overland Travel
- Work Area
- CHWM Dataform
- Flow Direction
- CDFW and SWRCB Jurisdictional Area
- Photo Point

1 inch equals 135 feet

Figure 3: Jurisdictional Delineation Northwest End (Section-1)
Figure 3D. Jurisdictional Delineation Southwest

SCE Project Features

- Existing Pole
- Proposed New Pole
- Access - Existing Dirt Road

Jurisdictional Delineation

Access - Overland Travel
Work Area
Flow Direction

Source: Bing Aerial Basemap 2021

Figure 4: Jurisdictional Delineation Southwest (Section-1)
A. Introduction

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

B. Findings

Under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b), there is a statutory exemption for emergency projects that involve emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency. Additionally, under section 15269, subdivision (c), there is a statutory exemption for specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

SCE is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. This project constitutes a necessary line extension of an existing circuit and there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge which have less adverse impacts than the proposed project.

Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions. Permanent impacts associated with this Project would result from the installation of new pole structures and new caissons. Pole replacements (i.e., pole removal and replacement of a similar pole within 10-feet of the existing pole) is considered “like for like” and is not considered a permanent impact.

Given the minor nature and impact of this Project, compensatory mitigation is not proposed. The installation of the poles is not expected to impact groundwater resources. Further, because the pole installation has nominal disturbance, the project is not expected to adversely affect any of the beneficial uses of Pipes Wash.

C. Findings and Determination

The issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269, subdivisions (b) and (c) (Emergency Projects).

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062).