



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

June 3, 2019

Certified Mail: 7003 0500 0003 1326 4343

Mr. Hazem Gabr
Water Quality Section Manager
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
GO-1, Environmental Services
Rosemead, CA 91770
Hazem.Gabr@sce.com

Subject: NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF STATE WATER BOARD CERTIFICATION OF THE 2017 NATIONWIDE PERMITS – TD1239872 SEARLES 115kV DISTRIBUTION DETERIORATED POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Dear Mr. Gabr,

Enclosed please find a Notice of Applicability (NOA) authorized by State Water Resources Control Board Deputy Director for the Division of Water Quality, Karen Mogus. This NOA is issued to Southern California Edison for the TD1239872 Searles 115kV Distribution Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (Project). The State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits (General Order) is included as part of this NOA in Attachment A of the Enclosures. Attachment B of the General Order includes the General Order's Reporting and Monitoring Requirements.

This NOA is issued in response to an application submitted by Southern California Edison for proposed Project discharge to waters of the state, to ensure that the water quality standards for all waters of the state impacted by the Project are met. You may proceed with your Project according to the terms and conditions of the enclosed NOA and General Order.

If you require further assistance, please contact me by phone at (916) 327-8117 or by email at Alexander.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also contact Beth Payne, Chief of the Wetlands Permitting and Planning Unit, by phone at (916) 341-5579, or by email at Elizabeth.Payne@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Lopez".

Alex Lopez, Environmental Scientist
Division of Water Quality

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Enclosures (2): NOA for the TD1239872 Searles 115kV Distribution Deteriorated Pole
Replacement Project (Project)

Attachment A: State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits
(General Order)

cc: [Via email only] (w/ enclosure):

Felicia Nancarrow, Senior Wetlands Regulatory Specialist
Southern California Edison
Felicia.R.Nancarrow@sce.com

Sam Ziegler, Chief
Wetlands Regulatory Office (WTR-8)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
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Dave Castanon, Chief
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State Water Resources Control Board

Effective Date: June 3, 2019

Reg. Measure ID:	430574
WDID:	SB19015IN

Program Type: Fill/Excavation

Project Type: Utility Line Pole Replacement

Project: TD1239872 Searles 115kV Distribution Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

Applicant: Southern California Edison
Applicant Contact: Hazem Gabr
Water Quality Section Manager
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
GO-1, Environmental Services
Rosemead, CA 91770
Phone: (626) 302-7608
Email: Hazem.Gabr@sce.com

State Water Board Staff: Alex Lopez
Environmental Scientist
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 327-8117
Email: Alexander.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov

State Water Board Contact Person:

For further assistance, please call State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Staff listed above or (916) 341-5478 and ask to speak with the Wetlands Permitting and Planning Unit Supervisor.

Attachment A State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits (General Order)

I. Action

This document serves as a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for enrollment under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits (SWRCB ID SB17001GN; hereafter referred to as the General Order and included in this NOA as Attachment A) at the request of Southern California Edison (Applicant). On April 29, 2019, the State Water Board received a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting authorization for the Applicant's TD1239872 Searles 115kV Distribution Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (Project). After reviewing the NOI, the State Water Board has determined that the Project meets General Order requirements for Nationwide Permit 12: Utility Line Activities.

II. Project Purpose

As described in the Project NOI and supplemental information (hereafter referred to as the Application), which is incorporated herein by reference, the purpose of the Project is to remove and replace two deteriorated wood H-frame transmission structures.

III. Project Location

The Project is located on public land along U.S. Highway 178/Trona Road in San Bernardino County, California, approximately 14.75 miles northeast of the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California. The Project coordinates are 35°40'11.90" N, 117°24'57.64" W.

IV. Receiving Waters information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Victorville Office (Lahontan Water Board). Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are listed in Table 1. These waters are regulated in accordance with the applicable water quality control plan (Basin Plan) for the region and other plans and policies of the California Water Boards, which may be accessed online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/.

Table 1: Receiving Water Information						
Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resource Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
Pole A1533212AE	<i>Unnamed tributary to Searles Lake</i>	Stream Channel	621.20	Searles Lake	MUN, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD	Salinity/TDS/ Chlorides, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons
Pole A1533212BE	<i>Unnamed tributary to Searles Lake</i>	Stream Channel	621.20	Searles Lake	MUN, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD	Salinity/TDS/ Chlorides, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

V. Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity ¹									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact ²			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Stream Channel	0.060	-	62	0.0002	-	6	-	-	-

VI. Description of Indirect Impacts to Waters of the State

The State Water Board recognizes the potential for indirect impacts to waters of the state associated with the Project. Potential indirect adverse effects include but are not limited to: increased sediment loading to streams from riparian and/or upland areas used for access or staging areas, possibility of introducing invasive species into the Project areas, and changing timing of runoff delivery to streams in the Project area. The Project, as designed, will not have significant indirect impacts to waters of the state.

VII. Avoidance and Minimization

In order to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the state and their designated beneficial uses, the Applicant will follow the avoidance and minimization measures as proposed in their Application.

¹ Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

² Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.

VIII. Mitigation for Temporary and Permanent Impacts

All temporarily affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities in compliance with the General Order and according to the restoration plan submitted by the Applicant in the Application.

The Applicant has provided a letter of credit in favor of the State Water Board to provide security against a default in providing the required compensatory mitigation. By January 15, 2020, the Applicant shall submit a mitigation plan to the State Water Board in accordance with Section XIII.F.2.e.ii.2 of the General Order. By June 1, 2020, the applicant shall submit proof of credit purchase in accordance with Section XIII.F.2.e.ii.3 of the General Order.

Total required Project compensatory mitigation information for permanent physical loss of area is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area³								
Aquatic Resource Type	Comp Mit. Type⁴	Units	Method⁵					
			Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.	Unknown
Stream Channel	MB	Acres						≥0.0002
Stream Channel	MB	LF						≥6

IX. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The State Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301. Additionally, the State Water Board finds that no exceptions to the exemptions apply to the activities approved by this NOA.

³ For State Water Board Staff use only: Record quantities in California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) table side A for Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Physical Loss of Area.

⁴ Compensatory mitigation type may be: In-Lieu-Fee (ILF); Mitigation Bank (MB); Permittee-Responsible (PR)

⁵ Methods: establishment (Est.), re-establishment (Re-est.), rehabilitation (Reh.), enhancement (Enh.), preservation (Pres.). Unknown applies to advance credits with an unknown method and or location.

X. Certification Fees

A fee payment of \$1638 was received by the State Water Board on April 29, 2019. 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).

XI. Authorization

To comply with State law, this Project must proceed as described in the Application submitted to the State Water Board by the Applicant and in accordance with the conditions in the General Order. Coverage under the General Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the General Order.

The Applicant should become familiar with the contents of the General Order (Attachment A). A copy of the General Order and its attachments can also be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nwp_go.pdf.

XII. Reporting and Notification Requirements

The Applicant shall submit an Annual Report each year on January 15 until a Notice of Project Complete is issued to the Applicant. Notices and reporting shall be provided to the State Water Board according to section XIII.A, "Notification Requirements," of the General Order.

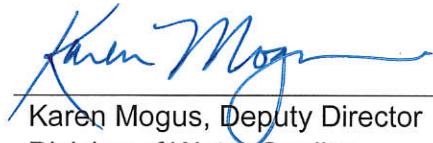
Electronic Document Submittal: The Applicant must submit all reports and information required under this Certification according to the Report Submittal Instructions found in Attachment B, "Reporting and Notification Requirements," of the General Order. Each electronic document must be submitted as a single file, in Portable Document Format (PDF), and converted to text searchable format using Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Documents over 50 megabytes (MB) will not be accepted via email and must be placed on a disc and delivered to the addresses listed above.

XIII. Water Quality Certification


I hereby issue this Notice of Applicability for the TD1239872 Searles 115kV Distribution Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, certifying that as long as all of the conditions listed in the General Order are met, any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of Clean Water Act sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards).

The State Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) at the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days of issuance of this NOA. This discharge is also regulated pursuant to State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ which authorizes Water Quality Certifications to serve as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all NOA actions are contingent on: (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the conditions of the General Order and the attachments to the General Order; and, (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of Statewide Water Quality Control Plans and Policies, and the Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans and Policies.



Karen Mogus, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality



Date

Attachment A State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits (General Order)