

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

**Public Notice  
Of Application for Amendment to 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. 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 Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB 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, Adelina Munoz

**Applicant Contact:** Wendy Worthey  
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**Project Name:** El Casco System Project, March 2012 Amendment to 401 Certification Issued September 30, 2009

**Date of Application:** 3/28/2012

**Affected Regions:** Region 7 (Colorado River) and Region 8 (Santa Ana)

**Project Background:** On March 28, 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) received an application from Mandy Parkes from the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, on behalf of Southern California Edison (applicant), requesting an amendment to a Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification issued for the El Casco System Project (ECSP) on September 30, 2009. The activities certified in the September 30, 2009 Certification consisted of construction of the El Casco substation and associated access road, modifications to the existing Maraschino and Banning substations, connection of existing transmission lines to the proposed substation, as well as replacement and upgrade of a 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line situated between the existing Banning Substation and the El Casco facility.

**Application Description:** The amendment to the ECSP proposes a change in the compensatory mitigation site for the ECSP. Originally, the applicant proposed to conduct compensatory mitigation for the project by providing exotic plant removal and restoration within San Timoteo Creek in the Norton Younglove Reserve. Permanent impacts would be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio for non-wetland drainage and at a 5:1 ratio for wetlands. However, the original compensatory mitigation site is unsuitable for restoration due to flood control work that has permanently separated the site from the creek. The site only receives surface runoff and supplemental irrigation from a neighbor interested in maintaining the wetland area.

The new compensatory mitigation site is located on the southern boundary of Goose Creek Golf Club, about 30 miles away from the ECSP site, at 600 feet elevation. The new proposed site consists of riparian habitat along the Santa Ana River that would be enhanced through non-native vegetation removal and native vegetation replacement. The site consists of loamy sand with about 1% organic matter. Some work has already been performed at the Goose Creek site as part of larger restoration efforts on a conservation easement. The land at the Goose Creek site is encumbered by a conservation easement that will remain with it in perpetuity. Total land available for compensatory mitigation is 0.418 acres. A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan has been prepared by the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, which has been reviewed and determined acceptable by State Water Resources Control Board staff.

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 staff member Jeanie Mascia at (916) 323-2871, or at [jmascia@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jmascia@waterboards.ca.gov), or Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464, or at [borne@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:borne@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

**State Water Resources**

**Control Board Staff Contact:**

*Jeanie Mascia, Environmental Scientist*  
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit,  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board

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