

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

Public Notice of Application for 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. Such 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 Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges 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 Company

Applicant Contact: Hazem Gabr
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Project Name: Santa Barbara County Reliability Project (RM 400669, SB 15003IN)
Date of Application: 04/23/2015

Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification for Southern California Edison's Santa Barbara County Reliability Project Affected Counties: Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

On April 21, 2015, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for activities related to the Santa Barbara Reliability Project (Project), from Southern California Edison (Applicant). The application was incorrectly sent to the Regional Water Board as project activities and impacts are proposed within the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Central Coast and Los Angeles Regions. Because the application materials were incorrectly sent to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the original application review was not valid. Therefore, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's determination on April 24, 2015 that the application was "complete" was not valid. The State Water Board retains jurisdiction over multi-regional projects. As a result, the application was forwarded to the State Water Board. The State Water Board received the application package on May 11, 2015, which restarted the regulatory time clock. The application was deemed complete on June 09, 2014.

The Project is located between the city of San Buenaventura and the City of Carpinteria in

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

The Applicant proposes to perform activities related to ensuring that availability of safe and reliable electrical service and to help meet customer electrical demand to those customers served by the Goleta substation. Project activities include, but are not limited to: removal and/or replacement of existing subtransmission facilities, installation of marker balls on overhead wires, modification of subtransmission and substation equipment within existing substations, replacement of line protection relays, installation of telecommunications facilities, installation of new telecommunications facilities along reconstructed subtransmission segments and at existing substations, transfer of distribution lines to new subtransmission structures, and removal decommissioned subtransmission infrastructure.

Projected permanent and temporary impacts to Waters of the U.S. and waters of the state are summarized in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Summary of Impacts to Waters of the State and U.S.				
Feature	Permanent Impacts (acre)	Permanent Impacts (linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (acre)	Temporary Impacts (linear feet)
Wetland				
Streambed	0.03	270	0.08	650
Lake/Reservoir				
Ocean/Estuary/Bay				
Riparian				
Isolated Waters				
Total Impacts				

Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), acting as lead agency under CEQA, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State Clearinghouse No. 2013041070).

The Applicant has filed for authorization under South Pacific District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Nationwide Permit 12, and a Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (covered under the Corps Pre-Construction Notification), concurrently with this water quality certification application. The Applicant has also applied for a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Development Permits from the City of Capintera and Santa Barbara County.

State Water Board staff are proposing to regulate the Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. In addition, 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 Ana Maria Saenz at (916) 341-5480 or Anamaria.Saenz@waterboards.ca.gov

Date Posted: June 09, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

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

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the SUBSCRIBE button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

Select "CWA401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.

You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.