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State Water Resources Control Board

**Public Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification for Southern California Edison  
West of Devers Upgrade 220 Transmission Line Project  
Affected Counties: Riverside and San Bernardino**

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

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 that may discharge to waters of the United States must seek a Water Quality Certification from the state with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge would meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has responsibility for issuing certifications 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**  
**Agent: Hazm Gabr**  
**Agent Telephone: (623) 633-3457**  
**Agent Email: Hazem.Gabr@sce.com**

**Project Name: West of Devers Upgrade 220 Transmission Line Project**  
**CIWQS Regulatory Measure ID: 412366**  
**File No.: SB17003IN**  
**Date of Application: 3/24/2017**

On March 24, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for activities related to the West of Devers Upgrade 220 Transmission Line Project (Project), from Southern California Edison (Applicant). The proposed Project spans the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Quality Control Board, and therefore, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over the Project. Activities would be conducted within the boundaries of the Santa Ana and Colorado Basin Regional Water Quality Boards.

Southern California Edison proposes to increase the system transfer capacity between various electrical substations through upgrades to electric transmission lines connecting those substations, and to the substations themselves. This is necessary due to additional electric generation from new renewable energy sources in eastern Riverside County. This area is designated by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) for planning purposes as the Blythe and Desert Center areas.

The existing 220-kiloVolt (kV) system west of the Devers Substation consists of two 220-kV circuits connecting the Devers and Vista substations; one circuit connecting Devers Substation with the San Bernardino Substation, one circuit connecting Devers Substation with El Casco Substation, and one circuit connecting El Casco Substation with San Bernardino Substation.

These transmission lines are currently supported on a combination of double-circuit and single-circuit structures. The Proposed Project would increase the system transfer capacity from approximately 1,600 megawatts (MW) to 4,800 MW. The proposed Project, planned to be operational by 2019/2020, would upgrade the existing WOD transmission line system by replacing the existing WOD 220-kV transmission lines and associated structures with new, higher-capacity transmission lines and structures and installing new and/or upgraded substation facilities. Telecommunication improvements would also be installed as part of the project.

In addition to work at the substations listed above, six 220 kV transmission line segments, approximately 49.5 miles in length, would be removed and replaced or upgraded. An additional 2.0 miles of 66kV line and 3.75 miles of 12.5 kV lines would be moved or removed and replaced.

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

| <b>Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity<sup>1</sup></b> |                                     |    |        |                         |    |       |  |    |    |
|--|-------------------------------------|----|--------|-------------------------|----|-------|--|----|----|
| <b>Aquatic Resource Type</b>                                       | <b>Temporary Impact<sup>2</sup></b> |    |        | <b>Permanent Impact</b> |    |       |  |    |    |
|  |                                     |    |        | Physical Loss of Area   |    |       | Degradation of Ecological Condition Only |    |    |
|  | Acres                               | CY | LF     | Acres                   | CY | LF    | Acres                                    | CY | LF |
| Riparian Zone  | 0.584                               |    |        | 0.149                   |    |       |  |    |    |
| Stream Channel   | 4.535                               |    | 21,210 | 0.647                   |    | 5,296 |  |    |    |
| Wetland  | 0.302                               |    |        | 0.152                   |    |       |  |    |    |

The applicant proposed to mitigate for all temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

**Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits**

On August 18, 2016, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), acting as lead agency under CEQA filed a Notice of Determination for the West of Devers Upgrade Project under the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for Southern California Edison (SCE, or applicant) (State Clearinghouse No. 2014051041).

The Applicant is seeking authorization under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 2017 Nationwide Permit # 12 through a notification to the Corps South Pacific Division – Los Angeles District.

The State Water Board is 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, the Board will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the December 5, 2017 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on December 26, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Cliff Harvey at (916) 558-1709 or [clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

### **Submission of Written Comments**

The State Water Board will accept written public comments regarding this item. Written comment letters must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. noon on December 26, 2017. Written comments must be addressed to:

Cliff Harvey, Environmental Scientist  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality, 15th Floor  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand-delivery)

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Cliff Harvey via e-mail at [Clifford.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Clifford.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov). If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: "Comment Letter – West of Devers Upgrade." Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Mr. Harvey.

**Date Posted: December 5, 2017**

### **State Water Resources Control Board Contact:**

Cliff Harvey, Environmental Scientist  
Water Quality Certification Unit, Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Telephone: (916) 558-1709  
Email: [clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov)

***Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this 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. To enroll, go the State Water Board webpage: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html) and enter contact information. Open the "Water Quality" drop-down menu, and check the box next to "CWA401 – Certification and Wetlands Program" then click 'Subscribe'. By enrolling in the CWA401 – Certification and Wetlands Program 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. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.