

Notice of Exemption

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To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-047-04 for the Southern California Gas Company eTS 38117 Cross Valley Station Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located approximately one mile southeast of the community of Valley Acres and State Route 119 in Kern County, within Assessor's Parcel Number 298-190-05, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 Minute Quad Map Taft, Township 31 South, Range 24 East, Section 33, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; Latitude 35.194864°N, Longitude -119.398549°W

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2020-047-04, to authorize Southern California Gas Company to incidentally take San Joaquin antelope squirrel which is listed as threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B)).

The ITP authorizes take of San Joaquin antelope squirrel for activities associated with the Project which is necessary to make the Cross Valley Station safe and operational and provide gas supply to customers in Taft and Valencia, Kern County, California. Project activities consist of the replacement of a malfunctioning pressure limiting station and communications shelter with electronics within the Cross Valley Station where natural gas pressure is measured and regulated at the connection of Line 7053 to Line 85. The Project will include: 1) removal of a portion of existing chain-link fencing; 2) excavations to install valves and regulators to be used for bypass purposes during the shutdown of Line 7053 and to remove and replace the pressure limiting station equipment; 3) demolition and removal of existing equipment shelters and foundations; 4) installation of new concrete foundation and replacement communication shelter at the same location as the existing footprint; 5) return soil surface to original grade, compaction, and installation of gravel/base rock and reinstallation of chain link fence; and 6) staging of equipment and materials directly west of the valve location within the dirt access road right-of-way.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Juan Jimenez, Project Manager, 1050 Overland Court, San Dimas, California 91773.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b); Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(2)
- Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Craig Bailey (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Supervisory), 559-243-4014, extension 227

DocuSigned by:
Annee Ferranti
Signature: _____
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Date: 11/2/2020

for Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-047-04 Southern California Gas Company eTS 38117 Cross Valley Station Project (Project)

Approval of this Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 *et seq.*) because the Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b), “Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare” and Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(2), “Emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service”. “Emergency” is defined as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services” (Pub. Resources Code, § 21060.3).

The Project includes the replacement of a malfunctioning pressure limiting station and communications shelter with electronics within the Cross Valley Station (Station) where natural gas pressure is measured and regulated at the connection of Line 7053 to Line 85. The replacement is needed in order to make the Station safe and operational and to provide natural gas supply to customers in the cities of Taft and Valencia in Kern County, California. The natural gas supply will be critical to meet the winter heating demand for these communities.

The proposed Project includes 1) removal of a portion of the existing chain-link fencing around the 4800-square foot Station to allow equipment access; 2) three excavations to install valves and regulators to be used for bypass purposes during the shutdown of Line 7053 and to remove and replace the pressure limiting station equipment within the Station; 3) demolition and removal of existing communication shelter and foundation and analyzer shelter foundation; 4) installation of new concrete foundation and replacement communication shelter at the same location as the existing footprint; 5) soil surface returned to original grade, compacted, and approximately two to three-inch layer of 3/4-inch gravel/base rock installed within the Station and reinstallation of chain link fence around the Station; and 6) staging of equipment and materials within an area of 4500 square feet directly west of the valve location within the dirt access road right-of-way.

Project activities include: clearing; excavating; demolishing existing above-ground facilities and foundations; pouring a new concrete foundation; replacing new above-ground facilities; cutting and removing existing pipeline segments; installing replacement pipeline segments; installing new pressure limiting station equipment; welding; compacting soil, grading, and installing gravel; materials laydown and storage; heavy equipment storage; transporting construction materials and other Project-related traffic; installing and removing temporary exclusion fencing; and other activities. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-047-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.