

Notice of Exemption

- 1 -

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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. 2081-2021-007-04 for the Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located within Kern County, California. The Project Area is comprised of two separate sites, L225 and L85. The L225 Site is located approximately one mile south of State Route 119, and the approximate center is located at 35.251245° N and -119.264576° W on private land owned by California Resources Corporation. The L225 Site occurs within the Tupman United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 184-012-051, and is within Township 31 South, Range 25 East, and Section 11, Mount Diablo baseline meridian. The L85 Site is located approximately one mile east of State Route 33, and the approximate center is located at 35.422375° N and -119.660266° W on private land owned by Aera Energy LLC and Chevron Corporation. The L85 Site occurs within the Belridge USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle on APNs 099-230-49 and 098-113-13, and is within Township 29 South, Range 21 and 22 East, and Sections 12 and 07, Mount Diablo baseline meridian.

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. 2081-2021-007-04, to authorize Southern California Gas Company to incidentally take giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratiodes nitratioides*) which are both designated as an endangered under CESA and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) which are listed as threatened species under CESA, respectively (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(C), (a)(6)(D), and (b)(6)(B), respectively).

The ITP authorizes take of giant kangaroo rat, Tipton kangaroo rat, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (Covered Species) for activities associated with the Project which is necessary to repair a high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent failure which is urgently required for health and human safety. The Project will include repair and recoating of the two sections of pipeline, installing four interference anodes, and returning the temporary disturbance area to pre-project conditions. The Project is expected to temporarily disturb 0.451 acre of Covered Species habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

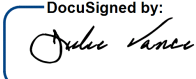
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Jae S. Yi, Project Manager, 9400 Oakdale Ave, SC9314, Chatsworth, California 91311.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b); Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(4)
- Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Kristie Stein (Environmental Scientist), kristie.stein@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____
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Date: 7/15/2022

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. 2081-2021-007-04 Southern California Gas Company Gas Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for “Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency” (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). “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 purpose of the Project is to repair two approximately 50-foot sections of high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent pipeline failure. Southern California Gas Company provided the following information regarding the urgent nature of this Project:

- Line 225 (around MP 3.28, south of L7200) is the major transmission line to supply San Joaquin Valley communities from Coles Levee to Visalia. A rupture on L225 at this location would impact ability to supply gas to these communities, and loss of customer service, including residential customers. Gas supply from Honor Rancho would be cut off. Regional impacts likely.
- Line 85 (around MP 49.9; between Avenal and Cross Valley Station) would not be able to supply gas to the San Joaquin Valley within Visalia, Hanford, Lemoore communities, nor from producers. We have taken L85 out of service before, and it required curtailment of electric generators in Kingsburg, Hanford, and Lemoore. If it were to rupture during the winter months, it could cause even more impacts. PG&E can help support, but they also have to serve their own customers first. Regional impacts likely.

The Project constitutes an emergency measure which is required for immediate health and human safety.

Prior to excavation activities, approx. three to four potholes will be hand dug to identify the location of the pipeline. Excavation of an approximately 70-foot long by 15-foot wide by ten-foot-deep trench will be required to expose the underground gas line. Once exposed, the pipeline will be abated, removing asbestos-containing material, and cleaned of dirt and debris to prepare the surface for recoating. The exposed pipeline segment will then be recoated with fusion-bonded epoxy or similar material. Next, approx. four interference anodes will be installed adjacent to the pipeline. The anodes will be attached to the pipe via three #8 wires and connected to a Fink Head Test Station, a small metal-plated terminal used for monitoring electric currents and potential, or similar equipment. The trench will then be backfilled with either the native excavated spoils or clean fill as needed, returning the temporary disturbance area to pre-project condition. The Project is expected to cause the temporary loss of 0.451 acre of habitat for the Covered Species.

Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-007-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.