

Notice of Exemption**- 1 -****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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022070285

Project Title: Minor Amendment No. 1 to California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2021-007-04 for the Southern California Gas Company Gas Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project (Project)

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

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a CESA (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) ITP and this Minor Amendment No. 1 to authorize Southern California Gas Company to incidentally take giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*) which are listed as endangered under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(C) and (a)(6)(D)), and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) 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 Project includes activities associated with repair of two approximately 50-foot sections of high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent pipeline failure at two separate Work Sites, eTS 43141 Line 225 MP 3.28 (L225 Site) and eTS 44051 Line 85 MP 49.9 (L85 Site). The Project also includes the installation of anodes to provide cathodic protection of the pipelines. Minor Amendment No. 1 makes two changes to the ITP: 1) updates the Contact Person listed on the ITP, and 2) extends the expiration date from January 31, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

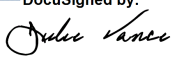
Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Jae S. Yi, Project Manager, 555 West 5th Street, MLGT16G3, Los Angeles, California 90013.

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:** Sarah Bahm (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Specialist), 559-580-3195

DocuSigned by:


Signature: FA83F09FE08945A...

Date: 2/22/2023

Julie A. Vance
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

**Attachment to Notice of Exemption
State Clearinghouse No. 2022070285**

**California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-007-04
Minor Amendment No. 1**

**Southern California Gas Company Gas Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install 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)(4), “Emergency repairs necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency”. “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 repair of two approximately 50-foot sections of high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent pipeline failure at two separate Work Sites, eTS 43141 Line 225 MP 3.28 (L225 Site) and eTS 44051 Line 85 MP 49.9 (L85 Site). The Project also includes the installation of anodes at the Work Sites to provide cathodic protection of the pipelines. In issuing the ITP, CDFW found, among other things, that Permittee’s compliance with the Conditions of Approval of the ITP would fully mitigate Project impacts of the taking on the Covered Species and that issuance of the ITP would not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species.

On January 24, 2023, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a minor amendment to the ITP and the corresponding fee payment on January 27, 2023. The request included updating the Permittee’s Contact Person and extending the expiration date of the ITP from January 31, 2023 to July 31, 2023. The Project has been delayed because Gas Control Outage Coordination (GCOC) has not allowed for the Project to proceed as there was a chance it could impact customers during months with high demand. The Permittee was able to install magnesium anodes to temporarily address the out of read tolerances while awaiting approval from GCOC to begin construction for the Project. GCOC has since provided new dates for construction with work at the L225 site expected to start construction in early April and end in mid-May 2023 and at the L85 site expected to start construction in early June and end in mid-July 2023.

CDFW has determined that this Amendment will not result in an increase the amount of take or the severity of other impacts of the taking on the Covered Species. Given the circumstances of this Project, the changes to the Project described in this Amendment will not increase impacts to 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; and 4) permanent habitat protection.