

Notice of Exemption

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022110521

Project Title: California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Amended Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2022-064-04 (Minor Amendment No. 4) for the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) eTS 58713.01 Line 85 Milepost 75.85 Remediation Digs Project (Project).

Project Location: The Project is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley approximately 6 miles east of the City of Taft in Kern County, California. The Project is specifically located at five distinct Work Areas adjacent to and on both sides of the California Aqueduct near Lake Station Road within the United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map Buena Vista Lake Bed. Work Areas 1 - 4 are within California Department of Water Resources-owned land in Section 12 of Township 32 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). Work Area 5 is within privately-owned land in Section 7 of Township 32 South, Range 25 East, MDB&M. Work Areas are located at approximately 35.158518, -119.349025; 35.157883, -119.346292; 35.158184, -119.345164; 35.164648, -119.349428; and 35.155344°, -119.335747.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a CESA (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) ITP, Major Amendment No. 1, Major Amendment No. 2, Major Amendment No. 3, and this Amended ITP (Minor Amendment No. 4) to authorize SoCalGas (Permittee) to incidentally Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*) which is as an endangered species under CESA, San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) which is designated as a threatened species under CESA, and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) which is list which is designated as a threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D), (b)(6)(B), and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The Project includes activities necessary to inspect and repair five segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 near MP 75.85 where anomalies were identified and to install cathodic protection for integrity and safety of the pipeline. This Amended ITP (Minor Amendment No. 4) amends the ITP to extend the expiration date from November 30, 2024, to May 30, 2025, and change the Principal Officer and address on the ITP. The resulting impacts of the Project to the Covered Species remain the same.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

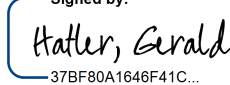
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Chloe Phan, Project Manager, 1919 S State College Blvd, ANAG2Z, Anaheim, California 92806

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Sarah Bahm (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)), sarah.bahm@wildlife.ca.gov

Signed by: 
Signature: _____ Date: 1/2/2025

for Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

**Attachment to Notice of Exemption
State Clearinghouse No. 2022110521**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-064-04
(Minor Amendment No. 4)**

**Southern California Gas Company
eTS 58713.01 Line 85 Milepost 75.85 Remediation Digs 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 which includes those actions that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency” and Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(4), “Specific actions 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 purpose of the Project is to prevent pipeline failure by inspecting and repairing five segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 near Milepost 75.85 where potential anomalies have been identified via remote pigging equipment and installing cathodic protection. Repairs are needed to ensure the integrity and safety of the pipeline and to reduce potential impacts to other pipelines in the vicinity of the California Aqueduct, and possibly to the California Aqueduct itself.

On November 27, 2024, the Permittee requested to extend the expiration date of the ITP to May 30, 2025, because the additional replacement of the pipeline and vault within Work Area 5 was not completed due to gas control scheduling conflicts to accommodate gas needs for winter heating. The request also includes changing the Principal Officer and address on the ITP.

This Amended ITP (Minor Amendment No. 4) amends the ITP to extend the expiration date from November 30, 2024, to May 30, 2025, and changes the Principal Officer and address on the ITP. The resulting impacts of the Project to the Covered Species remain the same.

CDFW has determined that Minor Amendment No. 4 will not result in an increase in take of the Covered Species or increase Covered Species habitat impacts. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-064-04, as amended. Measures include: 1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.