CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311

Project Title: Removal Action Work Plan for the Building D Demolition and Site Improvement Area

Project Location: 501 South Marengo Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803

County: Los Angeles

Project Description: The project involves approval of a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the excavation, removal, and off-site disposal of approximately 32 cubic yards (cy) of soil impacted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-d) at the Southern California Edison (SCE) Alhambra Combined Facility (Facility) located at 501 South Marengo Avenue, Alhambra, California (Site). The cleanup activities are associated with the demolition of a building and improvement of the area in its vicinity.

Background: The Site is located in the vicinity of an existing building (Building D) which is located approximately at the center of the SCE Facility. The SCE Facility is bordered by West Mission Road with residential use to the south, South Raymond Avenue with light industrial use to the west, Lemon Street with residential use to the north, and South Marengo Avenue with commercial use to the east.

In April 2000, SCE entered into an Expedited Remedial Action Enforceable Agreement (Enforcement Agreement) with DTSC that divided the Facility into three separate environmental areas of concern (AOCs):

- AOC-1 occupies approximately 10.5 acres on the southern portion of the Facility;
- AOC-2 occupies approximately 2 acres on the western portion of the Facility, and
- AOC-3 occupies approximately 20.5 acres on the northern portion of the Facility.

The RAW was prepared in compliance with the Enforcement Agreement and was developed in response to SCE's proposed demolition, removal, and disposal of impacted concrete and soil beneath Building D, located in the southeastern potion of AOC-3.

Historic records suggest that SCE is the first industrial developer of the Site. Most of the former buildings were constructed in the 1920s on raised concrete foundations and slab floors. Past operations in Building D involved large apparatus testing and repair shop for large transformers, circuit breakers, and other pieces of electrical equipment. AOC-3 is currently being used for the storage of electrical equipment, vehicle maintenance, and employee training. Current features at the Site include an electrical substation, salvage center for metal recycling, helicopter launch pad, guard shack, communication and dispatch center, employee office space, and abandoned railroad tracks.

Multiple environmental investigations have been conducted at the Facility. Remedial activities at AOC-2 were conducted and completed in 2006. A remedial investigation at AOC-1 was conducted and approved by the DTSC. Based on previous soil sampling data from the *2008 Final Remedial Investigations Report for AOC-3*, soil samples in the vicinity of the Site have been analyzed for TPH, PCBs, pH, metals, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). TPH-d exceeds the current commercial screening level (SL) for direct exposure, at one location near the southern end of Building D. Soil samples in the vicinity of the Site exceed current commercial/industrial SLs and Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) for arsenic but were below the Southern California Ambient Level of 12.0 mg/kg. All other soil samples in the vicinity of the Site were below commercial screening levels; however, PCBs were detected within the surficial concrete flooring of Building D.

In preparation for building demolition, surficial concrete sampling and analyses for PCBs was performed within Building D by SCE in 2020 and 2021 for delineation purposes. A total of 51 surficial concrete samples were analyzed for PCBs. Additionally, one surficial asphalt sample and 12 hand auger borings were advanced to a maximum of 5 feet below ground surface (bgs), and selected soil samples were analyzed for PCBs and TPH-d. These previous investigations identified and delineated the extent of contaminants in surface concrete and shallow soils at the Facility in the vicinity of the Site.

Project Activities: Because PCBs and TPH-d exceed DTSC and the U.S. EPA screening levels established for commercial land use, SCE will remove 32 cy of soil contaminated with PCBs and TPH-d prior to initiating intrusive demolition of Building D and improvement activities. The removal of contaminated soil will mitigate the potential risk to human health and the environment caused by Site soils that exceed these screening levels.

The soil will be excavated and then temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly into trucks for transportation and off-Site disposal. An excavation/grading permit will be obtained from the City of Alhambra. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared for the demolition and Site improvement activities. The project excavation activities at the Site have the potential to generate fugitive dust. Dust from operations at the Site may contain COCs. Dust concentrations will be assessed at the Site through periodic (approximately every 1 hour) monitoring using direct reading instruments utilizing an upwind/downwind monitoring approach. The locations of air monitoring stations will be modified as necessary based on the wind direction at the time of earth-moving activities. Qualitative dust monitoring (i.e., opacity) will be performed by a certified and qualified observer. Workers will be in the proper level of personal protective equipment for personal safety.

Dust control measures will be implemented by the earthwork contractor to mitigate the potential for offsite migration of fugitive dust and to minimize visible dust emissions as a product of excavation and soil exporting. The following control measures will be implemented during excavation and soil loading:

- On-Site vehicles will drive slowly (under 15 mph) when on-Site and entering or exiting the Site;
- Soil will be adequately wetted at frequencies to prevent the generation of visible dust plumes;
- Surface of all vehicular traffic and parking areas will be stabilized by applying gravel, paving, or dust suppressant;
- Soil will be cleaned from the exterior of trucks, trailers, and tires prior to the truck leaving the Site.

Approximately three trucks are estimated to be needed to transport the contaminated soil for disposal (32 cy soil equals 48 tons soil, truck capacity equals 23 tons). Excavation, removal, and off-site disposal is anticipated to take approximately one month.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Edison

Exemption Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
☒ Categorical Exemption: [Class 30 Categorical Exemption Cal. Code Regs,. Title 14, §15330]
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Minor actions to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The project is a minor action designed to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances.
2. The project will not exceed $2 million in cost.
3. The project does not involve the onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses, and does not involve the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123. Minimum dust control procedures will follow the “best available control measures” guidance contained in Table 1 of SCAQMD Rule 403.
4. The exceptions pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300.2 have been addressed as follows:

   Cumulative Impact. The project will not result in cumulative impacts because it is ith no construction activities and the final remedy that would not lead to a succession of projects of the same type in the same place over time.

   Significant Effect. The environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval will prevent unusual circumstances from occurring so that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

   Scenic Highways. The project will not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, because it is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

   Hazardous Waste Sites. The project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Evidence to support the above reasons is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, California 91311

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19490201

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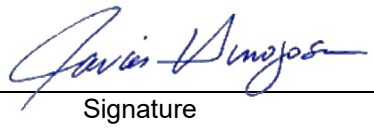
Project Manager Name	Project Manager Title	Phone #



Signature	11/17/2023
	Date

Javier Hinojosa	Branch Chief	(714) 484-5484
Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: