

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 South Coast Region
 3883 Ruffin Road
 San Diego, CA 92123
Frederic.Rieman@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: TD1676831 Victorville Blue Ridge Resiliency Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement, No. EPIMS-LAN-35160-R5).

Project Location (Los Angeles County): The project is located within Mescal Creek in the Angeles National Forest. The project is approximately 1.3 miles northwest of Big Pines in Los Angeles County at coordinates 34.387810°N, 117.713823°W within Section 33 and 34, Township 4 North, Range 8 West of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Mescal Creek, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-LAN-35160-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Southern California Edison (SCE) as represented by Hazem Gabr.

The project is limited to the removal and replacement of two wood poles (Poles 4665688E and 29550CIT), installation of two new anchors on existing poles (Poles 4697533E and 29550CIT), and overhead work, which will necessitate vegetation trimming at two pole locations (Poles 4882233E and 673768E). Overhead work may consist of replacement, reinforcement, or installation of new parts on an existing pole. Poles 4665688E and 4697533E will be accessed by truck via an existing dirt road stemming from Big Pines Highway. Poles 4882233E, 29550CIT, and 673768E will be accessed by foot and Pole 29550CIT will be set by crane from Big Pines Highway. The new anchors for Poles 4697533E and 29550CIT will be installed 15 feet southeast and ten feet southwest of the existing poles' locations, respectively. The new pole holes for Poles 4665688E and 29550CIT will be dug by machine auger or hand and will be set one foot east of the old pole locations. The old poles will be removed from the ground for disposal at an approved facility. Remaining native spoils will be used to backfill the holes vacated by the old poles. The area of soil disturbance (i.e., excavation, side casting and backfill) would be limited to approximately ten feet around each pole. A ten-foot work area will be utilized for overhead work and vegetation trimming conducted at Poles 4882233E and 673768E, and a truncated 25-foot temporary work area will be utilized around Pole 4665688E for the staging and operation of construction vehicles and equipment.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (b) and (d).

Reasons why Project is exempt: Class 1 addresses operation, maintenance, repair, or minor alteration of existing facilities or topographical features. Included in the exemption are existing facilities owned by a utility used to provide electric power, natural gas, or other public utility services. The project consists of removal and replacement of two deteriorated wooden distribution poles, installation of two new anchors at existing poles, and vegetation trimming at a fifth pole. No expansion of use is proposed. The project is exempt because it involves the maintenance of existing structures and/or facilities used to provide electric power and to meet public health and safety standards and consists of minor alteration to topographical features.

CDFW Contact Person: Frederic (Fritz) Rieman, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), (562) 619-0605, Frederic.Rieman@wildlife.ca.gov.

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Signature: _____

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Date: 12/8/2023

Victoria Tang, Acting Environmental Program Manager



Date received for filing at OPR: _____