

Notice of Exemption

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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. 2081-2024-022-04 for the eTS 7119701 Line 8106 MP 23.43-0 Leak Repair Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the community of Hazelton in unincorporated Kern County, California. The Project is specifically located south of Western Minerals Road and immediately adjacent to Pentland Road within the Pentland United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Township 11 N, Range 23 West, and Section 29, San Bernardino Base and Meridian. The approximate center of the site is located at latitude 35.016597° North and longitude -119.351197° West.

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. 2081-2024-022-04 authorizing Southern California Gas Company to incidentally take San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) which are listed as threatened species under CESA, respectively (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The ITP authorizes take of San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox (Covered Species) for activities associated with the Project which are necessary to replace a pipeline segment where a natural gas leak was identified on the Line 8106 natural gas transmission pipeline at approximate milepost 23.43-0. The replacement is needed to address safety regulatory requirements, or the CPUC may require Line 8106 be isolated or reduce the amount of natural gas running through the pipeline to avoid safety concerns. The Project will include excavating a trench to inspect the pipeline, replacing a segment of pipe, recoating the pipeline, and backfilling the excavation. Temporary disturbance areas will be returned to pre-project conditions and allowed to revegetate naturally. The Project is expected to temporarily disturb 2.32 acres of Covered Species habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

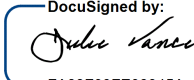
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Mitchell Mangione, Project Manager, 555 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90013

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 (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)), sarah.bahm@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____
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Date: 6/13/2024

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. 2081-2024-022-04 Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) eTS 7119701 Line 8106 MP 23.43-0 Leak Repair 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)) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b)) 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 replace a pipeline segment where a natural gas leak was identified on the Line 8106 natural gas transmission pipeline at approximate milepost 23.43-0. The proposed Project is required for SoCalGas to comply with federal and state pipeline safety regulations, and to prevent a loss of natural gas service to customers within the coastal region. Natural gas pipeline maintenance is required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (GO) 112 F. GO 112 F incorporates the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49, Part 192, Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline.

This leak urgently needs repair based on the potential for creating a future hazard, pursuant to SoCalGas’s procedural manual prepared under CFR 192.605. The Project will need to start immediately to address safety regulatory requirements. If SoCalGas cannot complete the Project by the assigned compliance date, the CPUC may require SoCalGas to isolate or reduce the amount of natural gas running through Line 8106 to avoid safety concerns. A reduction or isolation of this segment of line could cause a loss of provision of a public service essential to the health, safety, or welfare of natural gas customers. Line 8106 provides natural gas to SoCalGas’s coastal system, as fed from Line 85 producer supplies throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Isolation or a reduction of natural gas along this Line 8106 pipeline segment would risk SoCalGas’s ability to provide reliable natural gas to customers within the coastal region.

The Project will include excavating a trench to inspect the pipeline, replacing a segment of pipe up to 400 feet in length, recoating and testing the pipeline, and backfilling the excavation. Temporary disturbance areas will be returned to pre-project conditions and allowed to revegetate naturally. The Project is expected to temporarily disturb 2.32 acres of Covered Species habitat.

Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-022-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.