

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. 2081-2024-030-04 for the eTS 7072601 Line 8110 Gate Valve Leak Repair Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley approximately 5 miles east-southeast of the city of Taft in Kern County, California. The Project is specifically located adjacent to and south of Lake Station Road approximately 0.5 mile east of Gardner Field Road within the Buena Vista Lake Bed United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Township 32 South, Range 24 East, and Section 23, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The approximate center of the Project site is located at latitude 35.131588°, longitude -119.358900°.

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 Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*) which is listed as endangered under CESA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D)), and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) which are listed as threatened under CESA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The ITP authorizes take of Tipton kangaroo rat, 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 8110 natural gas transmission pipeline at approximate milepost 11.67. The replacement is needed to address safety regulatory requirements, or the CPUC may require Line 8110 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 0.25 acre of Covered Species habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

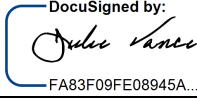
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Gas Company, Mangione Mitchell, Project Manager, 555 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90013

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

Signature:  FA83F09FE08945A...

Date: 6/27/2024

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. 2081-2024-030-04 Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) eTS 7072601 Line 8110 Gate Valve 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 and associated cathodic protection where a natural gas leak was identified on the Line 8110 natural gas transmission pipeline at approximate milepost 11.67. 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 8110 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 8110 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 8110 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 200 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 0.25 acre of Covered Species habitat.

Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2024-030-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.