

**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
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Project Title: SCE Valencia Substation Removal Action Workplan

Project Location: APN 015-426-112, San Bernardino, CA 92407

County: San Bernardino

Project Applicant: Southern California Edison (SCE)

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Removal Action Workplan

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.8

Project Description: The project consists of implementing a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) which proposes excavation and disposal of approximately 232 cubic yards of soil with elevated levels of arsenic and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the site of a former electrical substation located on a 0.27-acre parcel at the southwest corner of 40th Street and Genevieve Street in San Bernardino, California (Site).

Background: The property boundary for the Site covers approximately 12,000 square feet (0.27 acres) with the former electrical substation (fenced area) occupying approximately 7,500 square feet (0.17 acres). The Site was acquired by SCE in 1954 and was vacant prior to the substation's construction. Site equipment and structures, including a battery house, transformers, a power cable trench, and circuit breakers, were removed/demolished in 2018. The Site is currently vacant with a chain-link fence surrounding the portion of the Site where former substation equipment was located. The Site is unpaved with a 4- to 8-inch layer of crushed rock/gravel covering the ground surface within the fenced area. The surrounding vicinity consists of commercial and single-family residential development.

Contaminants of concern (COCs) consist of arsenic and PCBs (specifically Aroclor-1260). The source of arsenic is likely from the historical use of arsenic-based herbicides and rodenticides, and PCB concentrations identified in shallow soil at the Site are likely related to historic releases of PCBs from oil-containing equipment utilized at the onsite substation.

Project Activities: The removal action consists of excavation and offsite disposal of approximately 232 cubic yards (371.1 tons) of soil using a combination of excavators, loaders, or other types of earth moving equipment. Hand-digging may be utilized when utilities are encountered or exposed. The total area to be excavated measures approximately 1,963 square feet, with target excavation depths ranging from the surface to 6 feet below ground surface.

Arsenic-impacted soil will be segregated, sampled for waste characterization purposes, and profiled for disposal at an appropriate disposal facility. Arsenic-impacted soils requiring disposal as California or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste, if any, will be profiled for disposal at a Class I permitted landfill. Segregated soil from PCB excavations (presumed PCB-impacted soil) will be profiled based on an as-found maximum concentration of 24,000 microgram per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) (24 ppm). PCB-impacted soil waste will be transported to a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)-approved disposal facility that will be selected by SCE. Confirmation samples would be collected from the sidewalls and bottom of the excavations to assess in-situ soil for residual arsenic and PCBs.

Excavated soil will be placed in covered roll-off bins or 55-gallon drums, loaded directly onto transportation trucks, or temporarily stockpiled onsite for later transport and disposal load-out in a manner that minimizes the generation of dust. At the stockpile staging areas, excavated soil will be placed on an impermeable barrier base (10-millimeter-thick plastic sheeting) and similarly covered at all times except for the active working face of the stockpile.

Remedial excavations will be backfilled with “clean” fill material from an SCE-approved source. These approved sources are commercial suppliers of sand and gravel from pits or quarries. The imported clean fill will be sampled and analyzed in accordance with the DTSC regulations/guidance.

Implementation of the RAW entails an estimated 23 truck trips for soil disposal and a similar number of additional trips to import backfill material.

All permits necessary to conduct the proposed removal action activities will be obtained prior to mobilization efforts, including a grading permit from the County of San Bernardino. Additionally, the removal action includes measures to ensure compliance with Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rules 1466 and 403.

Work will be limited to 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Activities that do not include the use of noise-generating equipment may be conducted outside of those hours and on weekends, if necessary. The estimated duration of the project is approximately five months including permitting, execution, and preparation/review of a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR).

Although not anticipated, in the event subsurface cultural or historical resources are discovered in the course of project activities, work will be suspended while a qualified archaeologist or other cultural or historical specialist makes an assessment of the area and arrangements are made to protect or preserve any resources that are discovered. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance will occur in the location where the remains are found, and the County Coroner will be notified pursuant to the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 2, Section 7050.5.

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

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

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: Class 30 - Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances [CCR Title 14, Sec. 15330]

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 is a removal action that will not exceed \$1 million in cost.
3. The project does not involve the on-site 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 (VOCs) as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123.
4. The project will be consistent with applicable state and local environmental permitting requirements.
5. 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 designed to be a short-term, 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 view of 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.
- Historical Resources. The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource because none are anticipated.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

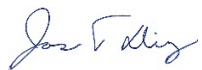
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002816

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
Jessy Fierro	Project Manager	(818) 717-6563

Approver's Signature:



Date:

December 13, 2024

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
Jose Diaz	Acting Branch Chief	(818) 717-6614

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: