PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

DRAFT

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Southern California Edison Company's Banducci Substation Project

Application No. A.12-11-011

Lead Agency: California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, California 94102

Contact: Jensen Uchida, Project Manager
(415) 703-5484 or Jensen.Uchida@cpuc.ca.gov

1. Mitigated Negative Declaration

1.1 Project Information

Project: Banducci Substation Project
Kern County, California

Project Sponsor: Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770
(626) 302-6634

1.2 Introduction

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) General Order 131-D, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed an application (A.12-11-011) with the CPUC on November 15, 2012 for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Banducci Substation Project ("Proposed Project"). On June 17, 2014, SCE filed an Amended Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), prepared by SCE pursuant to the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 2.4 (CEQA Compliance). The CPUC Energy Division deemed the Amended PEA and Application complete on July 15, 2014.

Pursuant to CEQA, the CPUC must prepare an Initial Study (IS) for the Proposed Project to determine if any significant adverse effects on the environment would result from project implementation. The IS utilizes the significance criteria outlined in Appendix G of the CEQA *Guidelines*. If the IS for the project indicates that a significant adverse impact could occur, the CPUC would be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report.

According to Article 6 (Negative Declaration Process) and Section 15070 (Decision to Prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration) of the CEQA *Guidelines*, a public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:

(a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

(b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

(1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and

(2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Based on the analysis in the Initial Study, it has been determined that all project-related environmental impacts could be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of feasible mitigation measures. Therefore, adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will satisfy the requirements of CEQA. The mitigation measures included in this MND are designed to reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environmental impacts described in the Initial Study. Where a measure described in this document has been previously incorporated into the project, either as a specific project design feature or as an Applicant-Proposed Measure, this is noted in the discussion. Mitigation measures are structured in accordance with the criteria in Section 15370 of the CEQA *Guidelines*.

1.3 Project Description

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is proposing to construct the Banducci Substation Project, which would include construction of the following components:

- New Banducci 66/12 kilovolt (kV) Substation,
- Two new 66 kV subtransmission lines segments that would loop into the existing Correction-Cummings–Kern River #1 66 kV subtransmission line,
- Three new underground 12 kV distribution getaways, and
- Telecommunication facilities to connect the proposed Banducci Substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

1.4 SCE PEA Alternatives Considered

The purpose of an alternatives analysis pursuant to CEQA is to identify options that would feasibly attain the project's objectives while reducing the significant environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. CEQA does not require the inclusion of an alternatives analysis in MNDs because the Initial Study concludes that, with incorporation of mitigation measures, there would be no significant adverse

impacts resulting from the Proposed Project (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15063(d) and 15071). Therefore, no alternatives analysis needs to be provided in the Initial Study.

However, pursuant to Section IX.B.1(c) of CPUC General Order 131-D, SCE's application did consider several locations and subtransmission route alternatives and system alternatives (SCE, 2012). To meet the need in the ENA, SCE first considered three System Alternatives:

- **System Alternative 1:** Construction of the new Banducci 66/12 kV Substation, which would incorporate two new 28.0 megavolt-amperes (MVA) banks and three new 12 kV distribution circuit getaways.
- **System Alternative 2:** Expansion of the existing Cummings 66/12 kV Substation, which would incorporate two new 28.0 MVA replacement banks and three additional 12 kV distribution circuit getaways.
- **System Alternative 3:** No Project Alternative

Because SCE determined that new infrastructure would be required as part of the Proposed Project, SCE also considered alternative locations for that infrastructure. The placement of a substation within this area would allow SCE to increase transformer capacity in the ENA and to transfer load between distribution circuits and the existing substations located near the ENA. The Proposed Project Study Area was developed using the following basic requirements:

- The substation should be in an area where existing and future electrical demand can be served within the ENA.
- The substation should be located in an area where it would improve operational flexibility with adjacent substations and circuits.

Twenty-six (26) substation sites were analyzed and eliminated from further consideration in the PEA because they failed to meet basic project objectives, would not be feasible, or would not avoid or substantially reduce potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project. Two potential substation sites and one potential 66 kV subtransmission line route that would connect the new substation to SCE's existing electrical system were identified for further consideration in the PEA. The preferred and alternative substation sites are located in proximity to the existing Correction-Cummings–Kern River 1 66 kV Subtransmission Line. Additional subtransmission line routes were not evaluated because construction of any other source route would cause additional environmental impacts.

However, the alternative substation site studied in the PEA currently is the location of an existing house and appurtenant structures associated with its current use as an office. Construction of a substation at the alternative site would require additional work, including but not limited to demolition of these existing developed features. That additional work would be expected to cause additional environmental impacts in areas such as aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise. Although the alternative substation site would not require the conversion of Prime Farmland as would the proposed substation site, overall, the substation site selected for the Proposed Project is expected to result in fewer overall environmental impacts when compared to the alternative site.

SCE also explored the option of using wireless antenna system for this project as an alternative to the telecommunication system upgrades. However, there is no existing wireless infrastructure in place to support the requirements for this project. For example, at Cummings Substation the property's footprint is not large enough to accommodate an antenna tower, there is no room for a new Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) to house the telecommunication equipment to support the antenna system, and there is no line of sight between Cummings and Banducci substations. Further, there are no third party utilities that could provide wireless communication in the area and additional antenna locations

would have to be identified and developed. Therefore, SCE determined that the proposed fiber optic cable plan is the most viable option for this project (SCE, 2014b).

SCE's application (A.12-11-011) and Proponent's Environmental Assessment are available for public review at the CPUC Energy Division CEQA Unit and at the following website:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/banduccisubstation/banduccisubstation.htm

1.5 Environmental Determination

The Initial Study was prepared to identify the potential environmental effects resulting from Proposed Project implementation, and to evaluate the level of significance of these effects. The Initial Study relies on information in SCE's Amended PEA filed on June 17, 2014 (Application No. A.12-11-011), project site reconnaissance by the CPUC environmental team in September 2013, CPUC data requests, and other environmental analyses.

SCE's PEA identified measures to address potentially significant environmental impacts — the Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) — and these APMs are considered to be part of the description of the Proposed Project. Based on the Initial Study analysis, additional mitigation measures are identified for adoption to ensure that impacts of the Proposed Project would be less than significant. The additional mitigation measures either supplement, or supersede the APMs. SCE has agreed to implement all of the additional recommended mitigation measures as part of the Proposed Project.

Implementation of the mitigation measures listed here and presented fully in the Initial Study would avoid potentially significant impacts identified or reduce them to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures for Conversion of Important Farmland

MM AG-1 **Minimize Impacts to Agricultural Resources.** For project components sited on or adjacent to Important Farmland, SCE shall:

- Minimize paving and ground-disturbing activities to the maximum extent practical within agricultural fields to retain agricultural soil characteristics.
- Notify adjacent agricultural operations of construction schedules at least 30 days in advance of the start of construction-related activities. The announcement shall: (1) describe where and when construction is planned; and (2) provide contact information for a point of contact for complaints about impacts to adjacent agricultural resources related to construction activities.

Prior to commencing ground disturbing activities, the Applicant shall submit a copy of the template used for the notification letter and a list of the landowners notified to the CPUC. The Applicant shall document all complaints and strategies for resolving complaints in regular reporting to the CPUC.

MM AG-2 **Compensate for Loss of Prime Farmland.** If Prime Farmland (as designated by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program) is converted to non-agricultural use, SCE shall mitigate for the loss of farmland through permanent preservation of off-site farmlands of equal or greater quality at a 1:1 ratio. Prior to the start of ground disturbance, SCE shall provide evidence to the CPUC that an Agricultural Conservation Easement has been granted in perpetuity to the local jurisdiction or an Agricultural Land Trust.

The Agricultural Land Trust must either: (A) demonstrate that it: (1) has adopted the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices; (2) has substantial experience creating and stewarding Agricultural Conservation Easements; and (3) has a stewardship endowment to help pay for its perpetual stewardship obligations; or (B) be approved by the CPUC.

Prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, the applicant shall also provide appropriate funds (as determined by the CPUC) to compensate for reasonable administrative costs incurred by the easement holder, including an endowment to cover the cost of monitoring and enforcing the easement in perpetuity.

Mitigation Measure for Construction-Phase Air Quality

MM AQ-1 **Implement EKAPCD Dust Control Measures.** SCE shall implement the following measures during site preparation and construction:

- All soil excavated or graded should be sufficiently watered or treated with non-toxic soil stabilizers to prevent excessive dust. Watering should occur as needed with complete coverage of disturbed soil areas. Watering should be a minimum of twice daily on unpaved/untreated roads and on disturbed soil areas with active operations.
- All clearing, grading, earth moving and excavation activities should cease: during periods of winds greater than 20 mph (averaged over one hour), if disturbed material is easily windblown; or when dust plumes of 20 percent or greater opacity impact public roads, occupied structures, or neighboring property.
- All fine material transported offsite should be sufficiently watered, treated with non-toxic soil stabilizers, or securely covered to prevent excessive dust.
- If more than 5,000 cubic yards of fill material will be imported to or exported from the site, then all haul trucks should be required to exit the site via an access point where a gravel pad or grizzly has been installed.
- Areas disturbed by clearing, earth moving, or excavation activities should be minimized at all times.
- Stockpiles of soil or other fine loose material shall be stabilized by watering or other appropriate method to prevent wind-blown fugitive dust.
- Where acceptable to the fire department, weed control should be accomplished by mowing instead of discing, thereby, leaving the ground undisturbed and with a mulch covering.
- Once initial leveling has ceased all inactive soil areas within the construction site should either be seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, treated with a dust palliative, or watered twice daily until soil has sufficiently crusted to prevent fugitive dust emission.
- All active disturbed soil areas should be sufficiently watered or treated with non-toxic soil stabilizers to prevent excessive dust, but no less than twice per day.
- Onsite vehicle speed should be limited to 15 mph.
- All areas with vehicle traffic should be paved, treated with dust palliatives, or watered a minimum of twice daily.

- Streets adjacent to the project site should be kept clean and accumulated silt removed.
- Access to the site should be by means of an apron into the project from adjoining surfaced roadways. The apron should be surfaced or treated with dust palliatives. If operating on soils that cling to the wheels of the vehicles, a grizzly or other such device should be used on the road exiting the project, immediately prior to the pavement, in order to remove most of the soil material from the vehicle's tires.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Special-Status Plants

MM B-1 **Perform Biological Resource Surveys and Construction Monitoring.** After project approval, but within 30 days prior to the start of construction, updated biological resource surveys shall be conducted confirming special-status or listed biological resources, if any, in the vicinity of the Proposed Project, including the 66 kV subtransmission line route, telecommunication line route, wire stringing locations, access roads, and staging yards. Updated survey results, including a map of biological resources identified, shall be provided to the CPUC for review and verification prior to construction. Prior to submitting the first survey report, SCE shall consult with the CPUC regarding the preferred format.

During construction, any special-status or listed species identified shall be reported to the CPUC within 24 hours. SCE shall provide a report documenting biological surveys conducted, construction activities observed, biological resources identified, and compliance with APMs and MMs to the CPUC on a weekly basis. Maps of special-status or listed biological resources identified during project surveys and monitoring activities shall be provided to the CPUC on a weekly basis.

- Sensitive plant surveys shall be conducted by a qualified botanist, approved by the CPUC, familiar with plants in the Cummings Valley. Field surveys will be conducted at the appropriate time of year to locate and identify the target species. Surveys will focus on identifying whether state and federally listed species as well as California Native Plant Society special-status plants are present. In addition, potential habitat to support special-status plant species and sensitive vegetation communities will be identified.
- Clearance surveys shall be conducted no more than 7 days prior to the start of construction in a particular area to identify potential plant and animal species that may be affected by construction activities. Clearance surveys will include a field survey by a qualified botanist and wildlife biologist and will include 500-feet beyond the border of any proposed project disturbance areas (where these areas are legally accessible). Clearance surveys will be submitted to the CPUC for review and verification prior to construction.

Biological monitors shall monitor construction activities in areas with special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, or unique biological resources to ensure such resources are avoided to the extent feasible.

MM B-2 **Establish Special-status Plants Buffers.** If special-status plants are found during field surveys, a buffer shall be established around the plants or plant populations within which no construction work is permitted unless the CPUC determines that such work may proceed without significantly impacting the special-status and listed species. The size of the buffer shall be adequate to ensure that plants are not significantly disturbed

and shall be determined by a qualified biologist. Construction monitors shall ensure that work crews are aware of the buffer and related work restrictions.

If special-status plants cannot be avoided, SCE shall coordinate with the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS to determine whether construction and operation impacts of the Proposed Project would be significant. Impacts to special-status plants will be considered significant if listed threatened or endangered species would be directly or indirectly affected; or plants presumed extinct in California (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1A) would be directly or indirectly affected; or ten (10) percent or more of a local occurrence of CRPR 1B or CRPR 2 species would be directly or indirectly affected.

In the event any of the above are triggered, SCE shall coordinate with the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS to design and implement appropriate mitigation measures. These measures may include, but would not be limited to:

- **Avoidance**. Project construction would be adjusted as necessary to avoid or minimize impacts to special-status plants and provide a minimum 25-foot buffer area surrounding each avoided occurrence, where no project activities will take place.
- **Off-site Compensation.** SCE would provide compensation lands to protect off-site special-status plant occurrence(s). Compensation lands would protect acreage, habitat suitability, and overall numbers of each special-status plant at no less than a 1:1 ratio or levels comparable to the project's impacts. In addition, the applicant will provide funding for long-term conservation management of the compensation land. The applicant will prepare a Compensation Plan, identifying the proposed compensation lands, proposed habitat improvements and long-term management, and specific legal mechanism for long-term preservation (e.g., holder of conservation easement or fee title). The Conservation Plan will be subject to review and approval by the CPUC in consultation with the CDFW and, upon approval, will be implemented in full. In cases where a federally or state-listed threatened or endangered species may be affected, the Conservation Plan will conform to applicable conditions under any CESA or federal ESA Incidental Take Permit, Biological Opinion, or other consultation documents. Where a Habitat Conservation Plan or similar conservation instrument is applicable, then participation in that plan may constitute compliance with this habitat compensation requirement.
- **Salvage**. In instances where salvage and relocation for special status or listed species is feasible, SCE will consult with a qualified conservation and horticulture institute (such as Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California) to design a Salvage and Relocation Plan, to be reviewed and approved by the CPUC in consultation with CDFW prior to disturbance of any occupied special-status plant habitat. The Plan will include at minimum: (a) collection/salvage measures for plants or seed banks, to retain intact soil conditions and maximize success likelihood; (b) details regarding storage of plants or seed banks; (c) location of the proposed recipient site, and detailed site preparation and plant introduction technique; (d) details for topsoil storage, as applicable; (e) time of year that the salvage and replanting or seeding will occur and the methodology of the replanting; (f) a description of the irrigation method(s), if used; (g) success criteria; and (h) a detailed monitoring program, commensurate with the Plan's goals.

- **Horticultural propagation and off-site introduction**. If salvage and relocation is not believed to be feasible for special-status plants, then the applicant will develop and implement an appropriate propagation and relocation strategy, based on the life history of the species affected. The strategy will include at minimum: (a) collection/ salvage measures for plant materials or seed banks, to retain intact soil conditions and maximize success likelihood; (b) details regarding storage of plant, plant materials, or seed banks; (c) location of the proposed propagation facility, and proposed methods; (d); time of year that the salvage and other practices will occur; (e) success criteria; and (f) a detailed monitoring program, commensurate with the strategy's goals.

MM B-3 **Minimize Noxious Weeds.** Precautions shall be taken to minimize the introduction of any invasive weeds. Construction vehicles and equipment shall be clean before they arrive at work areas in the project corridor. Any landscaping involving vegetation other than trees and shrubs shall consist of native seed mix or other ecologically appropriate, non-invasive plants. Only weed-free straw or mulch shall be used.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife

MM B-4 **Manage Trash and Microtrash.** Trash and microtrash shall be removed from work areas daily. Construction monitors shall conduct daily sweeps of work areas to ensure all trash and microtrash has been collected and removed. Microtrash in the form of construction materials such as nuts and bolts or other small materials must be secured at the end of each work day in secured, closed containers.

MM B-5 **Wildlife Prevent Entrapment.** SCE shall ensure that all potential wildlife pitfalls (trenches, bores, portable water tanks, and other excavations) have been backfilled or securely covered at the end of each workday. If backfilling or covering is not feasible, these potential pitfalls will be sloped at a 3:1 ratio at the ends as wildlife escape ramps. The biological monitor shall inspect all potential pitfalls no fewer than three times daily throughout and at the end of each workday.

All pipes or other construction materials or supplies shall be covered or capped in storage or laydown areas. No pipes or tubing is to be left open either temporarily or permanently, except during use or installation. Any construction pipe, culvert, or other hollow materials shall be inspected for wildlife before it is moved, buried, or capped.

Should native wildlife become trapped in excavations, materials, or other project-related situation, the biological monitor shall remove it (if feasible and safe) or immediately contact CDFW and the CPUC. Any native wildlife encountered shall be allowed to leave the area unharmed.

If injured native wildlife is found on or near Project access roads, work areas, or the ROW, whether or not the injuries are obviously project-related, SCE shall contact and work with a local wildlife rehabilitator, animal control, CDFW, or other qualified party to obtain assistance for the animal as soon as possible. SCE shall bear the costs of veterinary treatment and rehabilitation for any native injured wildlife found on or near Project access roads, work areas, or the ROW and any native wildlife injured by Project-related activities.

Dead animals of non-special-status species found on Project access roads, work areas, or the ROW shall be reported to the appropriate local animal control agency within 24 hours or a biological monitor shall safely move the carcass out of the road or work area as needed. Dead animals of special-status species found on Project roads, work areas, or the ROW shall be reported to the appropriate agency within 24 hours, and if required, the carcass handled according to agency guidelines.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Burrowing Owl

MM B-6 **Survey for and Avoid Burrowing Owl.** This mitigation measures supersedes APM BIO-3 (Burrowing Owl). Preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted in project areas within 30 days of construction. If any ground disturbing activities are planned during the burrowing owl nesting season (approximately February 1 through August 31), avoidance measures shall include a no construction buffer zone of a minimum distance of 250 feet, consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG, 1995). SCE shall comply with CDFW burrowing owl mitigation guidelines as detailed in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG, 2012) or more recent updates, if available.

Construction activities shall be scheduled and planned to avoid burrowing owls and their burrows. If occupied burrows cannot be avoided, an appropriate relocation strategy shall be developed in conjunction with CDFW. Biological monitors shall monitor all construction activities that have the potential to impact active burrows.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Tehachapi Slender Salamander

MM B-7 **Survey Requirements and Avoidance Relocation Measures for Tehachapi Slender Salamander.** This mitigation measure supersedes APM BIO-4 (Tehachapi Slender Salamander).

Pre-construction surveys and avoidance measures shall be implemented for Tehachapi slender salamander subject to applicable permit requirements. For construction activities involving ground disturbance in or directly adjacent to occupied or suitable habitat for the Tehachapi slender salamander, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, approved by the CPUC, prior to disturbance to determine if Tehachapi slender salamander individuals are present in the disturbance zone. If visual searches are used for pre-construction surveys, they shall be conducted no earlier than 72 hours prior to disturbance, and if pitfall trapping is used, it shall be conducted no earlier than 5 days prior to disturbance.

If Tehachapi slender salamanders are located, individuals within the disturbance zone shall be captured and relocated to the closest suitable habitat area containing talus, as and to the extent required by USFWS and/or CDFW in applicable permits or habitat conservation plans. If project activities are located within oak woodlands and ravines, construction activities shall avoid displacement of rocks, logs, bark, and other debris in thick leaf litter, near talus slopes. Biological monitors shall monitor all construction activities in occupied or suitable Tehachapi slender salamander habitat to ensure that construction activities do not impact this species.

When occupied habitat for Tehachapi slender salamander is directly impacted by construction activities involving ground disturbance, a habitat restoration plan shall be developed for the Tehachapi slender salamander that specifies, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of creation, enhancement, or restoration planting sites; (2) a

complete description of the hardscape (e.g., talus, rocks, and logs) to be installed and where hardscape materials will be deposited, along with desired leaf and litter cover; (3) a description of how the existing typical hydrologic regime will support Tehachapi slender salamander habitat; (4) the quantity and species of plants to be planted; (5) planting procedures, including the use of soil preparation and irrigation; (6) methods for the removal of non-native plants; (7) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the creation/enhancement/ restoration area; (8) a list of criteria (e.g., growth, percent plant cover, plant diversity, debris, and hardscape) and performance standards by which to measure success of the creation/enhancement/restoration; and (9) contingency measures in the event that creation/enhancement/restoration efforts are not successful. Performance standards shall be defined by a site-specific pre-construction study of known locations occupied by Tehachapi slender salamander, including evaluation of specific cover; distance to water; water inundation levels; percent canopy cover; percent shrub and grass cover; presence of talus, boulder, log, or other refugia; and other factors. The restoration plan performance standard under this mitigation measure is to create, restore, or enhance areas so that Tehachapi slender salamanders can naturally colonize these areas or Tehachapi slender salamanders within the disturbance zone can be successfully relocated to these areas. The plan shall be prepared by SCE and submitted to the CPUC and the resource agencies for approval prior to ground disturbance activities that would have an impact on occupied habitat for the Tehachapi slender salamander.

Pre-construction survey methods, avoidance measures, and final mitigation requirements for this species shall be established by USFWS and CDFW. Permit applications submitted to CDFW shall include, at a minimum, the applicable mitigation measures from this document.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to California Condor

MM B-8 **Halt Construction when California Condor Present.** SCE shall retain a qualified biologist with demonstrated knowledge of California condor identification to monitor all construction activities within the project area. If a California condor is present in any project work area (except flying over), construction activities shall be halted in that area (and within 500 feet of the condor) and the animal shall be allowed to leave the area on its own. All condor sightings in the project area will be immediately reported to the USFWS, CDFW, and the CPUC. Construction may resume upon the departure of the California condor and verification by a qualified biologist.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Nesting Birds

MM B-9 **Prepare Nesting Birds Management Plan and Conduct Surveys.** This mitigation measure supersedes APM BIO-2 (Pre-construction Surveys for Nesting Birds/Raptors).

Clearing of any vegetation (including agricultural fields and grasslands), site preparation in open or barren areas, or other project-related activities that may adversely affect breeding birds shall be scheduled outside the nesting season as feasible. Nesting season is generally February 1 to August 31, but varies with region, environmental factors, and species.

Within one week (7 days) prior to the start of construction in a particular area during nesting season, a nesting survey shall be conducted within project disturbance areas

and a 500-foot buffer surrounding all project disturbance areas (wherever legal access is available). At a minimum, nesting surveys shall be conducted from February 1 to August 31. A qualified biologist will determine if nesting activity is occurring either prior to or after this February-August period and nesting surveys will be performed accordingly.

If an active nest is found, a buffer shall be established around the nest in which no construction work is permitted. The size of the buffer will be adequate to ensure that the nest, nesting birds, and chicks (including fledglings and precocial chicks) are not disturbed. For nests of raptors and special-status bird species, the size of the buffer will be determined based on a project-specific nesting bird management plan approved by the appropriate resource agencies or consultation with the appropriate resource agencies. For all other nests, the size of the buffer will be determined by a qualified biologist. Construction monitors will ensure that work crews are aware of the buffer and related work restrictions. The buffer zone will remain in place until the young have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest or the nest is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist.

An active nest is defined as a nest with eggs or chicks, or as otherwise defined by CDFW

If an active nest must be moved during the nesting season, SCE shall coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain approval prior to moving the nest.

Prior to the start of construction, SCE shall prepare a draft Nesting Bird Management Plan, in consultation with the CPUC, describing measures to detect birds that may nest on and adjacent to the project site or facilities and to avoid impacts to or take of those birds or their nests during project construction. The draft Nesting Bird Management Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval in consultation with USFWS and CDFW. The Nesting Bird Management Plan will be finalized by SCE prior to issuance of CPUC's Notification to Proceed.

The Nesting Bird Management Plan will describe avoidance measures, such as buffer distances from active nests, based on the specific nature of project activities, noise, or other disturbance of those activities, the bird species and conservation status, and other pertinent factors. The Plan will specify species' (or groups of species) appropriate buffer distances based on tolerance of human activities. Standard nest buffers shall be 300 feet, and 500 feet for raptor species, or as specified in the CPUC-approved Nesting Bird Management Plan.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Other Protected Species

MM B-10 **Follow APLIC Guidelines.** Design, install, and maintain distribution lines and all electrical components in accordance with the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 to reduce the likelihood of electrocutions of large birds. Specifically, the phase conductors should be separated by a minimum of 60 inches. Where adequate separation is not feasible, avian protection materials should be used to cover electrical equipment (APLIC, 2006). Before construction begins, SCE shall submit a plan to the CPUC documenting that project design is consistent with APLIC guidelines.

Mitigation Measure for Loss of Sensitive Habitat

MM B-11 **Replace or Offset Sensitive Habitat Loss.** This mitigation measures augments APM BIO-5 (Avoidance of Sensitive Habitats). In the case of any conflict between Mitigation Measure B-11 and APM BIO-5, Mitigation Measure B-11 supersedes the APM.

Native vegetation in Big Sagebrush Scrub, Blue Oak Woodland, and Foothill Pine-Oak Woodland vegetation communities and aquatic features in construction sites shall be flagged for avoidance prior to construction activities. If avoidance is not feasible, SCE shall implement one or both of the following measures to offset or compensate for those impacts.

- **On-site Restoration.** If sensitive vegetation communities or habitat that may support special-status plants or animals are removed or degraded due to temporary project impacts, the applicant shall prepare and implement an Ecological Restoration Plan, to restore any temporary habitat loss within five (5) years of initial disturbance. The Plan will be subject to review and approval by the CPUC, in coordination with CDFW. The Ecological Restoration Plan's goal will be to replace habitat values that are damaged or degraded by the project. The plan will include: (a) soil or substrate preparation measures, such as recontouring, decompacting, or imprinting; (b) provisions for soil or substrate salvage and storage; (c) plant material collection and acquisition guidelines, including guidelines for salvaging, storing, and handling seed, cuttings, or rooted plants from the project site, as well as obtaining materials from commercial nurseries or collecting from outside the project area; (d) time of year that the planting or seeding will occur and the methodology of the planting; (e) an irrigation plan or alternate measures to ensure adequate water; (f) quantitative success criteria, to reflect yearly progress and final completion; (g) a detailed monitoring program to evaluate conformance with the success criteria; and (h) contingency measures to remediate the restoration site if success criteria are not met.

- **Compensation.** If sensitive vegetation communities or habitat that may support special-status species are removed or degraded, resulting in long-term or permanent project impacts (i.e., impacts lasting more than five [5] years), the applicant will provide for long-term habitat replacement by acquiring and protecting compensation land that will provide habitat value equivalent or greater than habitat removed for the project. Compensation may include off-site habitat restoration or other habitat improvements as needed, to replace habitat components affected by the project. In addition, the applicant will provide funding for long-term conservation management of the compensation land. The applicant will prepare a Compensation Plan, identifying the proposed compensation lands, proposed habitat improvements and long-term management, and specific legal mechanism for long-term preservation (e.g., holder of conservation easement or fee title). The Conservation Plan will be subject to review and approval by the CPUC in consultation with the CDFW. After approval, the Conservation Plan must be implemented in full. In cases where a federally or state-listed threatened or endangered species may be affected, the Conservation Plan will conform to applicable conditions under any CESA or federal ESA Incidental Take Permit, Biological Opinion, or other consultation documents. Where a Habitat Conservation Plan or similar conservation instrument is applicable, then participation in that plan may constitute compliance with this habitat compensation requirement.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Wetlands

MM B-12 **Delineate Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters.** Prior to the start of construction, a jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted to describe the type and extent of waters of the United States, including wetlands, and/or waters of the State within the proposed impact area. The presence or absence of wetlands shall be verified through an analysis of any hydrological conditions, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils pursuant to the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE, 2008). SCE shall provide copies of delineation reports to the CPUC.

Prior to any impacts to jurisdictional areas, permits/agreements from the USACE, the CDFW, and the RWQCB shall be obtained for direct and indirect impacts to areas within these agencies' jurisdictions. SCE would implement all measures required by the permits/agreements as issued by the resource agencies, potentially including constraints on proposed activities and restoration of disturbed jurisdictional areas and/or replacement as determined by the resource agencies. Copies of permits issued shall be provided to the CPUC.

Mitigation Measure for Conflicts with Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Trees

MM B-13 **Identify Trees Affected by Project.** Prior to construction, SCE shall identify any trees covered by tree protection local policies or ordinances that may be affected by construction of the Proposed Project and consult with applicable jurisdictional agencies prior to any tree alteration, removal, or other impacts. Impacts include trimming or removal of the tree; any construction activities within the dripline of the tree; any trenching or excavation that may damage tree roots, and any other project-related activities that may cause damage to the tree or as specified by local policies or ordinances protecting trees.

If operation of the Proposed Project requires tree trimming to the extent that would require a tree alteration or removal permit as a requirement of a local policy or ordinance protecting trees, SCE shall consult with the local agency and a local agency certified arborist consistent with CPUC General Order No. 131 D.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Known Cultural Resources

MM C-1 **Avoid Known Cultural Resources.** Where feasible, all impacts to sites identified in the preliminary cultural resource inventories shall be avoided and protected. Wherever a pole, access road, equipment, etc., must be placed or accessed within 100 feet of a recorded, reported, or known archaeological site eligible or potentially eligible for the CRHR, the site will be flagged on the ground as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) (without disclosure of the exact nature of the environmental sensitivity [i.e., the ESA is not identified as an archaeological site]). Construction equipment shall then be directed away from the ESA, and construction personnel shall be directed not to enter the ESA. Archaeological monitoring of Project construction shall occur in all areas of ground disturbing activity that occur within 100 feet of a cultural resource ESA.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Unknown Archaeological Resources

MM C-2 **Conduct Cultural Resources Surveys.** Prior to construction, and based on final engineering, cultural resource surveys would be conducted in areas of the Area of Direct Impact

(ADI) that have not been previously surveyed for the Proposed Project. No work shall be conducted in the previously un-surveyed areas until approval has been received by the CPUC. Supplemental cultural resource surveys of all new areas that would be affected shall be conducted by a qualified professional archaeologist. Any identified cultural resource would be documented and evaluated for its eligibility for listing in the CRHR. A supplemental technical report shall be provided to the CPUC discussing the supplemental surveys, documented and evaluated cultural resources, potential impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures. Ideally, cultural resources found to meet any of the CRHR eligibility criteria would be avoided and preserved in place. If avoidance is not feasible, then SCE and CPUC shall develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures to reduce any impacts to a less-than-significant level and all ground disturbing activities would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

MM C-3 **Treat Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources Appropriately.** If previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction of the Proposed Project, construction work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and directed away from the discovery until a qualified professional archaeologist assesses the significance of the resource. The archaeologist, in consultation with SCE and the CPUC, shall make the necessary plans for evaluation of the CRHR-eligibility of find(s) and for the assessment and mitigation of impacts if the finds are found to be historically significant according to CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

SCE shall develop a Cultural Resources Treatment Plan (CRTP) for all known and newly discovered cultural resources within the Project ADI, including procedures for protection and avoidance of ESAs, evaluation and treatment of the unexpected discovery of cultural resources including Native American burials; provisions and procedures for Native American consultation; detailed reporting requirements by the Project Archaeologist; curation of any cultural materials collected during the Project; and requirements to specify that archaeologists and other discipline specialists meet the Professional Qualifications Standards mandated by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP).

Implementation of the CRTP shall ensure that known and recorded cultural resources will be avoided during construction. Specific protective measures shall be defined in the CRTP to reduce the potential adverse impacts on any presently undetected cultural resources to less-than-significant levels. The CRTP shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days before the start of construction.

MM C-4 **Train Construction Personnel Regarding Cultural and Paleontological Resources.** Prior to the initiation of construction or ground-disturbing activities, all construction personnel shall be trained, by a qualified archaeologist, regarding the recognition of possible buried cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric and/or historical artifacts, objects, or features) and paleontological resources, and protection of all archaeological and paleontological resources during construction. SCE shall complete training for all construction personnel. Training shall inform all construction personnel of the procedures to be followed upon the discovery of cultural or paleontological materials. All personnel shall be instructed that unauthorized removal or collection of artifacts is a violation of State law and unauthorized collection or disturbance of fossils is prohibited. Any excavation contract (or contracts for other activities that may have subsurface soil impacts) shall include clauses that require construction personnel to attend training so they are aware of the potential for inadvertently exposing buried archaeological deposits or fossils. SCE shall

provide a background briefing for supervisory construction personnel describing the potential for exposing cultural resources, the location of any potential ESA and anticipated procedures to treat unexpected discoveries. A record of all trained personnel shall be kept and provided to the CPUC as requested.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Paleontological Resources

MM C-5 **Develop a Paleontological Resources Management Plan.** Prior to construction, SCE shall retain a qualified paleontologist to prepare a Paleontological Resources Management Plan (PRMP). The PRMP shall identify construction impact areas where significant paleontological resources may be encountered and the depths at which those resources are likely to be discovered. The Plan shall outline a coordination strategy to ensure that all construction disturbance in high sensitivity sediments or exceeding 10 feet in depth would be monitored full-time by qualified professionals. The Plan shall also detail methods of recovery; post-excavation preparation and analysis of specimens; final curation of specimens at a recognized, accredited facility; data analysis; and reporting, in the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction.

MM C-6 **Monitor Construction for Paleontology.** Based on the paleontological sensitivity assessment and Paleontological Resource Management Plan consistent with Mitigation Measure C-5 (Develop a Paleontological Resource Management Plan), SCE shall ensure that full-time construction monitoring is conducted by the Paleontological Resource Monitor in areas determined to have high sensitivity. Sediments of moderate or undetermined sensitivity shall be monitored by a Paleontological Resource Monitor on a part-time basis (as determined by the Qualified Paleontologist). Monitoring will entail the visual inspection of excavated or graded areas and trench sidewalls. The monitor may also screen sediments to check for the presence of microvertebrates if they are believed to be present. In the event that a paleontological resource is discovered, the monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert the construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance, and collected. Mitigation Measure C-6 does not apply to any drilling construction activities.

MM C-7 **Conduct Curation and Final Reporting.** All significant fossils collected will be prepared in a properly equipped paleontology laboratory to a point ready for curation no more than 45 days after all fieldwork is completed. Preparation will include the careful removal of excess matrix from fossil materials and stabilizing and repairing specimens, as necessary. Following laboratory work, all fossils specimens will be identified to the lowest taxonomic level, cataloged, analyzed, and delivered to an accredited museum repository for permanent curation and storage. The cost of curation is assessed by the repository and is the responsibility of SCE.

At the conclusion of laboratory work and museum curation of any discovered paleontological resources, a final report will be prepared and submitted to the CPUC describing the results of the paleontological resource monitoring efforts associated with the project. The report will include a summary of the field and laboratory methods, an overview of the project area geology and paleontology, a list of taxa recovered (if any), an analysis of fossils recovered (if any) and their scientific significance, and recommendations. A copy of the report will also be submitted to the designated museum repository.

Mitigation Measure for Disturbance of Human Remains

MM C-8 **Treat Human Remains Appropriately.** If human remains are unearthed during construction activities, construction work within 100 feet of the discovery shall be halted and directed away from the discovery until the county coroner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. If they are those of a Native American, the following would apply:

- The coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission.
- If discovered human remains are determined to be Native American remains, and are released by the coroner, these remains shall be left in situ and covered by fabric or other temporary barriers.
- The human remains shall be protected until SCE, the landowner, and the Native American Heritage Commission come to a decision on the final disposition of the remains.

According to the California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burials at one location constitute a cemetery (Section 8100), and willful disturbance of human remains is a felony (Section 7052).

Mitigation Measure for Seismic-related Ground Failure and Liquefaction

MM G-1 **Conduct Geotechnical Investigations for Liquefaction.** Because seismically induced liquefaction-related ground failure has the potential to damage or destroy Project components, the design-level geotechnical investigations to be performed by the SCE shall include investigations designed to assess the potential for liquefaction to affect the new Project structures and replacement poles within Cummings and Tehachapi Valleys in areas with potential liquefaction-related impacts. Where these hazards are found to exist, appropriate engineering design and construction measures shall be incorporated into the Project designs as deemed appropriate by the project engineer. Design measures that would mitigate liquefaction-related impacts could include ground improvement of liquefiable zones, installation of flexible bus connections, and incorporation of slack in cables to allow ground deformations without damage to structures. Study results and proposed solutions to mitigate liquefaction shall be provided to the CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days before final Project design.

Mitigation Measure for Transport, Use, or Disposal of Hazardous Materials

MM H-1 **Prepare and Implement Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).** SCE shall develop and implement a project-specific WEAP, which shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to construction. The WEAP shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

- A presentation shall be prepared by SCE and used to train all site personnel prior to the commencement of work. A record of all trained personnel shall be kept and provided to the CPUC as requested. Crewmembers who have attended the WEAP training presentation shall be provided with a card or a hard hat sticker indicating that they have completed the WEAP training.
- Instruction on compliance with Proposed Project mitigation measures, including site-specific biological resources protective measures.

- A list of phone numbers of SCE environmental specialist personnel associated with the Proposed Project (archaeologist, biologist, environmental coordinator, and regional spill response coordinator).
- Instruction on the individual responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, the project SWPPP, site-specific BMPs, and the location of Material Safety Data Sheets for the project.
- Worker Training on Emergency Release Response Procedures to include hazardous materials handling procedures for reducing the potential for a spill during construction, and hazardous material clean up procedures and training to ensure quick and safe cleanup of accidental spills.
- Instructions to notify the foreman and regional spill response coordinator in case of a hazardous materials spill or leak from equipment, or upon the discovery of soil or groundwater contamination. The foreman or regional spill response coordinator shall have authority to stop work at that location and to contact the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) (i.e., Kern County Environmental Health Services Department) immediately if unanticipated visual evidence of potential contamination or chemical odors are detected. Work will be resumed at this location after any necessary consultation and approval by the CUPA or other entities as specified by the CUPA.
- Instruction that noncompliance with any laws, rules, regulations, or mitigation measures could result in being barred from participating in any remaining construction activities associated with the Proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure for Residual Herbicides and Pesticides

MM H-2 **Identify Pesticide/Herbicide Contamination.** Prior to project construction, soil samples shall be collected in construction disturbance areas where the land has historically or is currently being farmed to identify the possibility of and to delineate the extent of pesticide and/or herbicide contamination. Materials containing elevated levels of pesticide or herbicide in areas of trenching or excavation will require special handling and disposal procedures. The local Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) shall be contacted to provide oversight regarding the handling, treatment, and/or disposal options for pesticide or herbicide contaminate soil. Standard dust suppression procedures (as defined in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 [Implement EKAPCD Dust Control Measures]) shall be used in these construction areas to reduce airborne emissions of these contaminants and reduce the risk of exposure to workers and the public.

Mitigation Measure for Discovery of Unknown Contamination

MM H-3 **Observe Exposed Soil for Evidence of Contamination.** During grading or excavation work, the construction contractor shall observe the exposed soil for visual evidence of contamination. If visual contamination indicators are observed during construction, the contractor shall segregate any suspect soil already excavated, stop work until sampling and testing is done to determine appropriate treatment and disposal, and appropriate measures are taken to protect human health and the environment. The contractor shall comply with all local, State, and federal requirements for sampling and testing, and subsequent removal, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials/waste. Additionally, in the event that evidence of contamination is observed, the contractor shall document the

exact location of the contamination and shall immediately notify the local CUPA and CPUC, describing proposed actions. A weekly report listing encounters with contaminated soils and describing actions taken shall be submitted to the CPUC.

Mitigation Measure for Wildland Fires

MM H-4 **Prepare a Fire Management Plan.** SCE's Fire Management Plan shall be project-specific and shall include guidance for preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires during construction and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project. The Fire Management Plan shall include provisions applicable to construction crews and activities and maintenance crews and activities. The Fire Management Plan shall include protocols to address smoking and fire rules, storage and parking areas, use of gasoline-powered tools, use of spark arresters on construction equipment, road closures, use of a fire guard, fire suppression tools, fire suppression equipment, and training requirements. The Plan shall require construction crews to carry fire extinguishing equipment, prohibit trash burning, restrict smoking to cleared areas, and designate vehicle parking areas away from any dry vegetation to reduce potential ignition of fires at or near the project sites. Additionally the Plan shall include the following measures:

- Cease work during Red Flag Warning events in areas where grassland or other vegetation would be susceptible to accidental ignition by project activities that could ignite a fire (such as welding or use of equipment that could create a spark by striking rock). During Red Flag Warning events, as issued daily by the National Weather Service, all non-emergency construction and maintenance activities shall cease in affected areas.
- Remove hazards from work areas. SCE shall clear dead and decaying vegetation from the work area prior to starting construction and/or maintenance work. The work areas would include only those areas where personnel are active or where equipment is in use or stored, and may include: the Proposed Banducci Substation area and associated new fiber optic and subtransmission equipment; the new fiber optic telecommunications route; construction laydown areas; pull, tension, and splicing sites; access roads; parking pads; and any other sites adjacent to Proposed Project components where personnel are active or where equipment is in use or stored. Cleared dead and decaying vegetation shall either be removed or chipped and spread on site in piles no higher than six (6) inches.

Mitigation Measure for Impacts to Water Quality and Prevention of Soil Erosion

MM HYD-1 **Develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Implement Best Management Practices.** The Applicant shall develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), as required by the RWQCB and outlined in General Permit 2009-0009-DWQ, which will describe best management practices (BMPs) to prevent the acceleration of natural erosion and sedimentation rates. The SWPPP will include a written site-specific Construction Site Monitoring Program (CSMP). A monitoring program, which shall include a reporting requirement to the CPUC, will be established to ensure that the prescribed BMPs are followed during project construction. BMPs shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Use of silt fences or other sediment containment methods placed around and/or downslope of disturbed areas prior to construction;

- Protection of drain inlets from receiving polluted stormwater through the use of filters, such as fabrics, gravel bags, or straw wattles;
- Construction of a stabilized construction entrance/exit to prevent tracking onto roadways;
- Establishment of a vehicle storage, maintenance, and refueling area, if needed, to minimize the spread of oil, gas, and engine fluids. Use of oil pans under stationary vehicles is strongly recommended; and
- Prohibition on overnight parking of mobile equipment within 100 feet of wetlands, culverts, or creeks. Stationary equipment (e.g., pumps, generators) used or stored within 100 feet of wetlands, culverts, or creeks will be positioned over secondary containment.

A worker education program shall be established for all field personnel prior to initiating fieldwork to provide training in the appropriate application and construction of erosion and sediment control measures contained in the SWPPP. This education program will also discuss appropriate hazardous materials management and spill response.

All BMPs shall be inspected on a weekly basis, and at least once every 24-hour period during extended storm events. BMPs shall be inspected as described in the SWPPP, maintained on a regular basis, and replaced as necessary through the course of construction. For each inspection required, an inspection checklist will be completed using a form as described in Attachment C of General Permit 2009-0009-DWQ. This checklist will remain onsite with the SWPPP.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Groundwater Supply

MM HYD-2 **Use Non-potable Water for Dust Control or Soil Compaction.** Project water supply for dust control or soil compaction activities shall be obtained from non-potable sources, if available, and ensured in a water contract through a local water agency or district.

MM HYD-3 **Dewater Construction Site As Needed.** If groundwater is unexpectedly encountered during construction, operation, or decommissioning of the Project, dewatering activities shall be performed in compliance with the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Handbook for Construction or other similar guidelines, as approved by the Central Valley and/or Lahontan RWQCB, as applicable based on jurisdiction. The Applicant shall submit a written description of all executed dewatering activities, including steps taken to return encountered groundwater to the subsurface and/or to dispose of the dewatered groundwater upon the completion of dewatering activities at the affected site(s).

Mitigation Measures for Construction Noise

MM N-1 **Limit Construction Noise to Daytime Hours.** SCE shall limit grading, scraping, hole augering and pole installation to daylight hours, between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Exceptions for work outside of these hours shall be allowed for project safety or to take advantage of the limited times when power lines can be taken out of service or as determined to be warranted by the CPUC. If nighttime work is needed because of clearance restrictions on power lines, SCE shall take appropriate measures to minimize disturbance to local residents by informing them in advance of the work schedule and probable inconveniences.

MM N-2 **Minimize Construction Vehicle and Traffic Noise.** SCE shall maintain construction equipment and vehicle mufflers in accordance with equipment vendor specifications on all engines used in construction. Where feasible, construction traffic shall be routed to avoid noise-sensitive areas, such as residences, schools, religious facilities, hospitals, and parks.

Mitigation Measures for Construction Traffic and Interference with Emergency Access during Construction

MM T-1 **Restrict Lane Closures.** SCE shall restrict all necessary lane closures or obstructions on major roadways associated with overhead or underground construction activities to off-peak periods in congested areas to reduce traffic delays. Lane closures must not occur between 6:00 and 9:30 a.m. or between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise authorized in writing by the responsible public agency issuing an encroachment permit.

MM T-2 **Ensure Emergency Access and Response.** Prior to construction, SCE shall coordinate with Kern County and emergency service providers regarding emergency access and/or response to the Proposed Project area during construction activities to avoid restricting movements of emergency vehicles. SCE shall ensure that the Proposed Project has considered the relevant Kern County ordinances and building codes so as not to hinder or interfere with emergency access or response (such as, but not limited to, the Kern County Code of Building Regulations: Chapter 17.32, Fire Code and Chapter 17.34, Wildland-Urban Interface Code).

Police departments, fire departments, ambulance services, and paramedic services serving the project area shall be notified 30 days in advance by SCE of the proposed locations, nature, timing, and duration of any construction activities and advised of any access restrictions that could impact their effectiveness. At locations where roads will be temporarily blocked, work crews shall be ready at all times to accommodate emergency vehicles through immediately stopping work for emergency vehicle passage and/or facilitating the use of short detours and alternate routes in conjunction with local agencies.

MM T-3 **Implement Traffic Management Plan.** SCE shall follow its standard safety practices, including installing appropriate barriers between work zones and transportation facilities, posting adequate signs, and using proper construction techniques. SCE is a member of the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Committee, which published the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (2010). SCE will follow the recommendations in this manual regarding basic standards for the safe movement of traffic on highways and streets in accordance with Section 21400 of the CVC. These recommendations include provisions for safe access of police, fire, and other rescue vehicles.