5.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☑	☐	☐
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☑	☐
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☑	☐	☐
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☑	☐	☐

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.8.1 Setting

This section addresses issues related to environmental hazards and hazardous materials, including accidental spills of hazardous materials, the presence of existing subsurface contamination, the risk of wildfire, and aircraft safety. Hazardous materials include fuel, oil, solvents, and lubricants. If encountered, contaminated soil or groundwater can pose a health and safety threat to workers or the public.

Land Use

Existing and past land use activities are commonly used as indicators of sites or areas where hazardous material storage and use may have occurred or where potential environmental contamination may exist. For example, many historic and current industrial sites have soil or groundwater contaminated by hazardous substances. Other hazardous materials sources include leaking underground tanks in commercial and rural areas, contaminated surface runoff from polluted sites, and contaminated groundwater plumes. Current and former agricultural properties commonly have herbicide, pesticide, and/or fumigant soil contamination.

The Proposed Project is located in the Cummings, Brite, and Tehachapi Valleys of the Tehachapi Mountains in Kern County. Components of the Proposed Project pass through the city of Tehachapi and the unincorporated communities of Cummings Valley, Brite Valley, Old Town, and Monolith. Most of the land traversed by Proposed Project components is undeveloped open grasslands with scattered trees and shrubs, agricultural land, or sparsely developed rural residential areas; a small portion of the Proposed Project traverses residential, commercial, and light industrial areas in and adjacent to the city of Tehachapi.

The proposed Banducci Substation and associated new subtransmission are located in Cummings Valley, which is primarily agricultural with scattered rural residences. Proposed Telecommunications Route 1 traverses agricultural and rural residential properties for most of its alignment, traverses across The California Correctional Institution, and traverses adjacent to a small section of residential land use as it crosses along the southern boundary of the city of Tehachapi. Proposed Telecommunications Route 2 traverses agricultural properties as it crosses north and east through Cummings Valley and then crosses adjacent to primarily rural residential properties with scattered agricultural land as it traverses along the northern edge of Brite Valley and the western end of Tehachapi Valley. This route crosses through a small area of commercial land use near Woodford-Tehachapi Road and Commercial Avenue just outside of the Tehachapi city limits. Continuing east through Tehachapi, it traverses primarily residential areas with scattered commercial and light industrial businesses. East of Dennison Road, land use along Telecommunications Route 2 transitions to primarily undeveloped grassland with scattered agricultural, rural residential, commercial, and light industrial properties.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

During construction, hazardous materials such as cleaning solvents, paints, adhesives, vehicle fuels, oil, hydraulic fluid, and other vehicle and equipment maintenance fluids would be used and stored in construction staging yards. Spills and leaks of hazardous materials during construction activities could result in soil or groundwater contamination. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project would be anticipated to involve the transport, use, and disposal of other hazardous materials, including hazardous liquid materials (such as mineral oil). Normal maintenance and refueling of construction equipment would be conducted at the staging yards.

The Proposed Project would replace approximately 39 existing treated wood poles. SCE states in the PEA that reuse or disposal of these poles would be required as part of the Proposed Project. SCE states that it is anticipated that these poles would either be reused, disposed of in a Class I hazardous waste landfill, or disposed of in the lined portion of a RWQCB-certified municipal landfill (SCE, 2014).

Operation of the Proposed Project would require the use and storage of liquids classified as hazardous materials at the Proposed Banducci Substation. Based on the anticipated volume of hazardous liquid materials (such as mineral oil) in excess of 1,320 gallons to be used at the site, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan would be required in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 112.1-112.7 (SCE, 2014).

There are three abandoned oil/gas wells located in Cummings Valley in the vicinity of the proposed Banducci Substation site. The closest well is a plugged, dry well located approximately 0.4 mile**s** northeast of the proposed Banducci Substation site. Due to the distance from the Proposed Project it would neither impact nor be impacted by the Proposed Project (DOGGR, 2014).

Environmental Contamination

Components of the Proposed Project where ground disturbance would occur would be susceptible to encountering environmental contamination, if located in the vicinity of commercial or industrial sites with known contamination or adjacent to sites that store and use large quantities of hazardous materials, or in agricultural areas that may have used herbicides, pesticides, or fumigants. Ground disturbing activities for the Proposed Project are as follows:

- Grading, trenching, and excavation at and adjacent to the proposed Banducci Substation for construction and installation of the new substation facilities.
- Excavation for installation of the new 66 kV subtransmission structures, which would include excavation for six new tubular steel poles (TSPs), two new TSP guy stubs, two new light-weight steel (LWS) poles, and seven new wood poles.
- Trenching for installation of new underground substructures for the new telecommunications cable, which would include the following locations and lengths:
  - Telecommunications Route 1: at and near the proposed Banducci Substation and along Pelliser and Dale Roads (3,250 feet); at Cummings Substation (510 feet); and at Monolith Substation (160 feet)
  - Telecommunications Route 2:at proposed Banducci Substation (290 feet); at W. Valley Boulevard and Woodford-Tehachapi Road (810 feet); and at Dennison Road and E. Tehachapi Boulevard (240 feet).
- Excavation for 39 replacement wood poles along proposed Telecommunication Route #2.

The proposed Banducci Substation and the nearby project components are located in an active agricultural area that is primarily used for row crops (SCE, 2014). In Kern County, records and permits for pesticides, herbicides, and fumigants used on agricultural properties and the commodities permitted for that site are maintained by the Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards. However, while pesticides and/or herbicides and commodities permits were granted for a site, not all of the permitted pesticides and herbicides may have been used or the commodities grown at the site (SCE, 2014). The Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards also maintains records of reported use of pesticides and herbicides for the permitted properties. SCE conducted a review of records for 2004 through 2013 of historic pesticide and herbicide use for the agricultural lots that include the proposed Banducci Substation Site (SCE, 2014).

As indicated in Table 5.8-1, no record of pesticide or herbicide use exists for 2009 through 2013 for the property containing the proposed Banducci Substation site, and a supplemental review of reported pesticide use for 2014, from January to July for this area also indicates no reported use of herbicides or pesticides (County of Kern, 2014). However, given the long history of agricultural use in the area at and near the proposed Banducci Substation site, excavation and grading for all project components in this area may encounter residual pesticides and/or herbicides in the soil.

Table 5.8-1. Historic Pesticide and Herbicide Use at and Adjacent to the Proposed Banducci Substation Site

Year	Permitted Commodity for Agricultural Site	Pesticide Use
2013	Arugula, lettuce leaf, mustard, spinach, and Swiss chard	No record of pesticide use
2012	Arugula, lettuce leaf, mustard, spinach, and Swiss chard	No record of pesticide use
2011	Fallow	No record of pesticide use

Table 5.8-1. Historic Pesticide and Herbicide Use at and Adjacent to the Proposed Banducci Substation Site

Year	Permitted Commodity for Agricultural Site	Pesticide Use
2010	Fallow	No record of pesticide use
2009	Potato	No record of pesticide use
2008	Turf/sod and onion dry etc.	Prowl H2O herbicide
2007	Turf/sod	Turflon Ester, No Foam A, and Subdue Maxx MC
2006	Turf/sod	No record of pesticide use
2005	Turf/sod	Turf Herbicide-Sun, Clean Crop Amine 4 2, 4-D Weed Killer, Loveland Industries Herbimax Oil-Surfact, Activator 90, Trimec Turf Herbicide Applicators Formula, and Nufarm Weedar 64 Broadleaf Herbicide
2004	Turf/sod	Norton SC Suspension Concentrate, Turf Herbicide-Sun, Clean Crop Amine 4 2, 4-D Weed Killer, Loveland Industries Herbimax Oil-Surfact, and Activator 90

Source: Table 4.8-1 from SCE Banducci Substation Project PEA (SCE, 2014).

SCE conducted a review of regulatory databases compiled by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) for the area surrounding the proposed Banducci Substation which revealed no hazardous materials sites or known sites with environmental contamination within 0.5 miles of the substation site (SCE, 2014). A review of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB's) GeoTracker website was conducted by Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. in August 2014 for areas of the Proposed Project where ground disturbing activities such as excavation or trenching would occur. Six GeoTracker site listings, representing four properties, were identified within 1000 feet of ground disturbance locations along Telecommunications Route 2 in the City of Tehachapi and the unincorporated community of Old Town to the west of Tehachapi. These are listed in Table 5.8-2.

Table 5.8-2. GeoTracker Sites within 1000 feet of Proposed Project Components with Ground Disturbance

Site Name	Address	Listing Type[1]	Closest Project Component(s)	Distance (feet)
Wildrose Station	20436 Brian Way, Tehachapi	UST, Closed LUST	New underground for Route #2 at Woodford-Tehachapi Road	200 – southwest
Old Town Trading Post/ S and H Food Mart	20917 South St., Tehachapi	Closed LUST, UST	New underground for Route #2 at Woodford-Tehachapi Road	590 – west
Stop N Save	706 E Tehachapi Blvd., Tehachapi	UST	Replacement pole 1212624E for Route #2 on Tehachapi Blvd.	Adjacent to the south
Sid Garage	870 E Tehachapi Blvd., Tehachapi	Closed LUST	Replacement pole 1212624E for Route #2 on Tehachapi Blvd	610 – east

Source: (SWRCB, 2014).
1 - UST = underground storage tank; LUST = leaking underground storage tank

The closed LUST sites do not pose any potential risk for contamination to the Proposed Project due to their "case closed" status. The UST sites do not have any current known contamination issues and have a low potential to have caused contamination at the nearby Proposed Project locations with ground disturbance.

Schools

Although there are numerous public and private schools in the Tehachapi area and several in the outlying communities, only seven schools are located within 0.25-miles of the Proposed Project. The schools and their approximate distance from Project components are listed below:

- Cummings Valley Elementary School, 24220 Bear Valley Road, Tehachapi – located approximately 1290 feet northwest of proposed Telecommunications Route 2.
- Heritage Oak School, 20915 Schout Rd, Tehachapi – located approximately 500 feet south of proposed Telecommunications Route 2.
- Carden School of Tehachapi, 20419 Brian Way, Tehachapi – located approximately 700 feet northeast of a new underground section at Woodford-Tehachapi Road for proposed Telecommunications Route 2.
- Sunshine Place Preschool, 19016 Highline Road, Tehachapi – located south of and across the street from a proposed stringing site for proposed Telecommunications Route 1.
- Tompkins Elementary School, 1120 S. Curry Street, Tehachapi – located approximately 880 feet from a proposed stringing site for proposed Telecommunications Route 2 and approximately 810 feet from the proposed Telecommunications Route 2 alignment.
- Wells Elementary School, 300 S. Robinson Street, Tehachapi – located approximately 1330 feet south of proposed Telecommunications Route 2.
- Monroe High School (Continuation), 126 S. Snyder Avenue, Tehachapi – located adjacent to proposed Telecommunications Route 2 and replacement pole # 1212624E.

Airports and Airstrips

There are several airstrips/airports within the vicinity of the Proposed Project, including one private airstrip and two public airports. There is a private landing airstrip at PSK Ranch (listed as PSK Ranch Airport), which is located approximately 0.8 miles north of the proposed Banducci Substation site, approximately 0.25 miles north of proposed Telecommunication Route 1, and approximately 40 east of proposed telecommunications Route 2. Review of current and historic Google Earth photos show that the airstrip is apparently not currently used for aircraft takeoff and landing operations as it does not appear to have been maintained and is overgrown by vegetation in places. Historic Google Earth photos show the airstrip last is good condition in August 2006.

There are two public airports within 2 miles of proposed Telecommunication Routes 1 and 2, the Tehachapi Municipal Airport and Mountain Valley Airport. The Tehachapi Municipal Airport is a municipally owned public airport located in northern Tehachapi approximately 200-250 feet from proposed Telecommunication Route 2. The Tehachapi Municipal Airport runway is oriented northwest-southeast with its southwestern end about 350 feet north of Telecommunications Route #2. Mountain Valley Airport is a privately owned public airport located south of Tehachapi and is mainly used for gliders and some small aircraft. Mountain Valley Airport is located approximately 0.5 miles south of proposed Telecommunications Route 1. The Mountain Valley Airport has two parallel runways with one used exclusively for the gliders, oriented northwest-southeast with the closest end of the runway being approximately 2 miles from Telecommunications Route 1 measured along the trend of the runway.

Wildland Fires

The Proposed Project telecommunications routes pass through areas of grasslands with scattered trees and brush, agricultural areas, rural residential areas, and residential, commercial, and light industrial properties of the City of Tehachapi. Fire protection in the City of Tehachapi and the unincorporated communities near the Proposed Project area is provided by the Kern County Fire Department. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CDF) Fire Hazard Severity Zone in SRA (State Responsibility Area) map for Kern County (CDF, 2007), the Proposed Project components are primarily in areas defined as High and Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones with a small portion of proposed

Telecommunication Route 2 crossing and adjacent to Very High Severity Zones near the north end of Brite Canyon.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

Electric voltage and electric current from transmission lines create electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Possible health effects associated with exposure to EMF have been the subject of scientific investigation since the 1970s, and there continues to be public concern about the health effects of EMF exposure. However, EMF is not addressed here as an environmental impact under CEQA. The CPUC has repeatedly recognized that EMF is not an environmental impact to be analyzed in the context of CEQA because (1) there is no agreement among scientists that EMF does create a potential health risk, and (2) there are no defined or adopted CEQA standards for defining health risks from EMF. Section 4.16 (Electric and Magnetic Fields Summary) provides information on EMF and the Proposed Project. Section 5.18 (Corona and Induced Current) discusses potential impacts associated with induced current.

Applicable Regulations

Hazardous substances are defined by federal and State regulations that aim to protect public health and the environment. Hazardous materials have certain chemical, physical, or infectious properties that cause them to be considered hazardous. Hazardous substances are defined in the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 101(14), and also in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Chapter 11, Article 2, Section 66261, which provides the following definition:

A hazardous material is a substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.

For this analysis, soil that is excavated from a site containing hazardous materials would be considered to be a hazardous waste if it exceeded specific CCR Title 22 criteria or criteria defined in CERCLA or other relevant federal regulations. Remediation (cleanup and safe removal/disposal) of hazardous wastes found at a site is required if excavation of these materials occurs; it may also be required if certain other activities occur. Even if soils or groundwater at a contaminated site do not have the characteristics required to be defined as hazardous wastes, remediation of the site may be required by regulatory agencies having jurisdictional authority. Cleanup requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis by the agency taking lead jurisdiction.

Federal

The federal Toxic Substances Control Act (1976) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) established a program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the regulation of the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA was amended in 1984 by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Act (HSWA), which affirmed and extended the “cradle to grave” system of regulating hazardous wastes. The use of certain techniques for the disposal of some hazardous wastes was specifically prohibited by HSWA.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), including the Superfund program, was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law provided broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endan-

ger public health or the environment. CERCLA established requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites; provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites; and established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified. CERCLA also enabled the revision of the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The NCP provided the guidelines and procedures needed to respond to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and/or contaminants. The NCP also established the National Priorities List (NPL). CERCLA was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) on October 17, 1986.

Federal Regulation 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77 establishes standards and notification requirements for objects affecting navigable airspace. Under 49 CFR Part 77, notices to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are required for the following activities:

- Any construction or alteration of more than 200 feet in height above the ground level at its site.
- Any construction or alteration of greater height than an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at one of the following slopes:
  - (i) 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each with at least one runway more than 3,200 feet in actual length excluding heliports.
  - (ii) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport with its longest runway no more than 3,200 feet in actual length, excluding heliports.
  - (iii) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport.
- Any highway, railroad, or other traverse way for mobile objects, of a height which, if adjusted upward 17 feet for an Interstate Highway that is part of the National System of Military and Interstate Highways where overcrossings are designed for a minimum of 17 feet vertical distance, 15 feet for any other public roadway, 10 feet or the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse the road, whichever is greater, for a private road, 23 feet for a railroad, and for a waterway or any other traverse way not previously mentioned, an amount equal to the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse it, or would exceed a standard of the thresholds outlined in specified in 49 CFR 77.
- When requested by the FAA, any construction or alteration that would be in an instrument approach area (defined in the FAA standards governing instrument approach procedures) and available information indicates it might exceed a standard specified in 49 CFR 77.
- Any construction or alteration on any of the airports (as specified in 49 CFR 77).

Due to the location of portions of SCE's existing and proposed telecommunications components, SCE would be subject to the notification requirements specified in 49 CFR 77.

State

California's cabinet-level agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), was created in 1991. It brought the Air Resources Board (ARB), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs), Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), DTSC, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) under one "umbrella" agency. Their coordinated missions are to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality, and economic vitality.

The California Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) is administered by Cal/EPA to regulate hazardous wastes. The HWCL lists 791 chemicals and about 300 common materials that may be hazardous; establishes criteria for identifying, packaging and labeling hazardous wastes; prescribes management controls; establishes permit requirements for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation; and identifies some wastes that cannot be disposed of in landfills.

Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is a department of Cal/EPA and is the primary agency in California that regulates hazardous waste, cleans-up existing contamination, and looks for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. DTSC regulates hazardous waste primarily under the authority of RCRA and the California Health and Safety Code. Other laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) is the primary agency responsible for worker safety in the handling and use of chemicals in the workplace. Cal/OSHA standards are generally more stringent than federal regulations. The employer is required to monitor worker exposure to listed hazardous substances and notify workers of exposure (8 CCR Sections 337-340.2). The regulations specify requirements for employee training, availability of safety equipment, accident-prevention programs, and hazardous substance exposure warnings.

In 1993 the State (Cal/EPA) was mandated by Senate Bill 1082 (Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.11) to establish a "unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management" regulatory program (Unified Program). The Unified Program consolidates, coordinates, and makes consistent the administrative requirements, permits, inspections, and enforcement activities of the following six environmental and emergency response programs:

- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (Business Plans),
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program,
- Underground Storage Tank Program,
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act,
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment (tiered permitting) Programs,
- California Uniform Fire Code: Hazardous Material Management Plans and Hazardous Material Inventory Statements.

The Unified Program is implemented at the local level by various local government agencies certified by the Secretary of Cal/EPA. These agencies, known as Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA), implement all of the Unified Program elements and serve as a local contact for area businesses. The Kern County Environmental Health Services Department is certified by Cal/EPA as the CUPA for Kern County.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act is a State law that provides a comprehensive water quality management system for the protection of California waters. The Act designates the SWRCB as the ultimate authority over state water rights and water quality policy, and also established nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) to oversee water quality on a day-to-day basis at the local and regional levels. The RWQCBs have the responsibility of granting National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for stormwater runoff from construction sites.

California Public Resources Codes (CPRC) Section 4292 and 4293 regulate fire protection and clearances related to electrical transmission or distribution lines. Section 4292 states that "any person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line…shall, during such times

and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency which has primary responsibility for fire protection of such areas, maintain around and adjacent to any pole or tower which supports a switch, fuse, transformer, lightning arrester, line junction, or dead end or corner pole, a fire-break which consists of a clearing of not less than 10 feet in each direction from the outer circumference of such a pole or tower. Section 4293 states that electrical transmission or distribution lines upon any mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, or grass-covered land shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency which has primary responsibility for the fire protection of such area, have a clearance of the respective distances which are specified in this section in all directions between all vegetation and all conductors which are carrying electric current maintained:

(a) For any line which is operating at 2,400 or more volts, but less than 72,000 volts, four feet

(b) For any line which is operating at 72,000 or more volts, but less than 110,000 volts, six feet

(c) For any line which is operating at 110,000 or more volts, 10 feet

In every case, such distance shall be sufficiently great to furnish the required clearance at any position of the wire, or conductor when the adjacent air temperature is 120 degrees Fahrenheit, or less. Dead trees, old decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened by decay or disease and trees or portions thereof that are leaning toward the line which may contact the line from the side or may fall on the line shall be felled, cut, or trimmed so as to remove such hazard.

Local

The County of Kern Environmental Health Services Department, Hazardous and Solid Waste Division, oversees businesses generating, storing, and transporting hazardous waste to protect the public health and the environment. The Division provides surveillance and enforcement for hazardous waste, radiological health, vector control, solid waste, and infectious waste. The program also provides emergency response to chemical events to furnish substance identification; health and environmental risk assessment; air, soil, water and waste sample collection; incident mitigation and cleanup feasibility options; and on-scene coordination for State superfund incidents. The program also provides for the oversight, investigation, and remediation of unauthorized releases from underground tanks.

Applicant Proposed Measures

SCE proposes to implement measures during the design, construction, and operation of the Proposed Project to ensure it would occur with minimal environmental impacts in a manner consistent with applicable rules and regulations. Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) are a commitment by the Applicant (SCE) and are considered part of the proposed Project in the evaluation of environmental impacts. Therefore, the following discussions of impact analysis assume that all APMs will be implemented, including the one APM specific to hazards identified in Table 5.8-3.

Table 5.8-3. Applicant Proposed Measures – Hazardous Materials

APM Number	Description
APM HAZ-1	**Fire Management Plan.** A Fire Management Plan would be developed by SCE prior to the start of construction.

5.8.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED – CONSTRUCTION. Construction of the Proposed Project would include the replacement of approximately 39 existing treated wood poles. SCE has indicated that they would be required to reuse or dispose of these poles as part of the Proposed Project (SCE, 2014). If disposed of, these treated wood poles would be classified as Treated Wood Waste (TWW) and would be required to be disposed of in a RWQCB approved Treated Wood Waste Landfill or a Class I hazardous waste landfill. In addition, construction activities associated with the Proposed Project, including the proposed Banducci Substation, the proposed 66 kV subtransmission line segments and new structures, the replacement of 39 subtransmission poles, and the installation of the new fiber optic telecommunication cables, would use hazardous materials such as gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and lubricants associated with construction equipment and other vehicles and would use and store hazardous materials such as mineral oil, cleaning solvents, paints, adhesives, vehicle fuels, oil, hydraulic fluid, and other vehicle and equipment maintenance fluids in the construction staging yards. No acutely hazardous materials would be stored or used on location or at staging yards during construction. These hazardous materials would be transported, used, and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and SCE guidelines designed to prevent accidents, injury, or other damages to the public, workers, or the environment (SCE, 2014).

Minor spills or releases of hazardous materials could occur due to improper handling and/or storage practices during construction activities. These potential impacts would be partially avoided through implementation of the required site-specific Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP prepared for the Proposed Project would provide the locations for storage of hazardous materials during construction, as well as protective measures, notifications, and cleanup requirements for any incidental spills or other potential releases of hazardous materials (SCE, 2014). In addition, Material Safety Data Sheets would be made available at the construction site for all crew workers (SCE, 2014). Implementation of Mitigation Measure H-1 would further reduce the potential impact from transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials to less than significant.

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

MM H-1 **Prepare and Implement Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).** A project specific WEAP shall be prepared and submitted to the CPUC for approval prior to construction. The WEAP shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions related to hazards and hazardous materials:

- 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.
- Instruction on compliance with Proposed Project mitigation 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.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT – OPERATION. Operation and maintenance of the Banducci Substation, associated new 66 kV subtransmission line segments and structures, and new fiber optic telecommunications cables would involve periodic and routine transport, use, and disposal of minor amounts of low toxicity hazardous materials consisting primarily of mineral oil and petroleum products (lubricating and insulating oils). The proposed Banducci Substation would be required to complete a SPCC Plan due to the planned operation of the oil-filled transformers, with typical SPCC features including curbs/valves, trenches, berms, or other features/structures designed and installed to contain spills, should they occur (SCE, 2014) and would also include operational methods for preventing, containing, and controlling potential releases, and provisions for quick and safe cleanup. All transport of hazardous materials would conducted in compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations, including the acquisition of required shipping papers, package marking, labeling, transport vehicle placarding, training, and registrations (SCE, 2014). In the event of a spill, the SPCC would reduce the potential for contamination and exposure of workers or the public to hazardous materials by ensuring that any spilled material and any resulting surficial contaminated soil would be quickly and correctly cleaned up and disposed of, resulting in limited to no exposure of hazardous materials to the environment and workers.

b. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. Implementation of the required SPCC, SWPPP, and Mitigation Measure H-1 (Prepare and Implement Worker Environmental Awareness Program [WEAP]) for construction of the Proposed Project, as discussed above in Section 5.8.2(a), for spill prevention and hazardous substance control would reduce the potential impact from upset or accidental spills of hazardous materials to a less-than-significant level.

c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT. Hazardous materials to be used during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would consist of low toxicity materials including gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and lubricants associated with construction equipment and vehicles. These low toxicity materials would be used throughout the Proposed Project area. While there are seven schools located within 0.25 miles of the nearest

Proposed Project component, the low toxicity of the materials associated with the Proposed Project and proper handling, storage, and disposal of all hazardous materials in accordance with the project specific SWPPP, SPCC, Mitigation Measure H-1, and applicable regulations would reduce impacts to area schools to a less-than-significant level.

d. Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Most of the Proposed Project crosses through undeveloped grassland, rural residential, and medium density residential properties with no listed or known contaminated sites within 1000 feet of any of the Proposed Project components. However, portions of the Proposed Project, where ground disturbance would be required (trenching for the fiber optic telecommunications cables, excavation for several replacement poles, and excavations for the Banducci Substation and associated new 66 kV subtransmission segments and structures) cross through agricultural land with potential for residual pesticides and herbicides and through commercial and light industrial areas in Tehachapi with gas stations and other facilities that use and store hazardous materials that could have created previously unknown soil contamination. Should they be present, excavation and disposal of contaminated soils and or groundwater could potentially expose construction workers or the public to hazardous materials, a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure H-2 would reduce the impact of residual pesticides and herbicides to less than significant.

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.

In the event that previously unknown contaminated soil is encountered during excavation activities in the light industrial areas of Tehachapi, implementation of Mitigation Measure H-3 would reduce the impact to less than significant.

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.

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT – CONSTRUCTION. The proposed Banducci Substation site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport. The nearest public airport, the Tehachapi Municipal Airport is located more than 9 miles northeast of the proposed Banducci Substation site and approximately 350 feet north of the nearest section of the Proposed Telecommunications Route 2. Portions of the existing telecommunications components are included in the Tehachapi Airport Master Plan Update (SCE, 2014). In SCE removed potential utility pole obstructions prior to completion of the Tehachapi Airport Master Plan Update in 2004 and a subsequent threshold siting analysis completed according to FAA methodology and California Department of Transportation guidelines concluded that removal of the poles cleared the obstructions to Runway 29, and that the airport improvements (relocating Runway 29 375 feet from the previous runway end) met the FAA threshold siting criteria (SCE, 2014).

The nearest proposed replacement pole for Telecommunications Route 2 would be approximately 500 feet away from Runway 29 and, as such, would be consistent with the existing approved siting criteria (SCE, 2014). Construction activities for proposed Telecommunication Route 2 in the vicinity of the Tehachapi Municipal Airport would occur within an area located in the Tehachapi Airport Master Plan Update, therefore SCE would be required under 49 CFR Part 77 to notify the FAA of the construction. Proposed Telecommunication Route 1 is located approximately 2 miles north of the end of the Mountain Valley Airport runways, however no replacement poles are planned in this area and stringing of the fiber optic cable should not interfere with the flight path of for these runways. Compliance with the federal aeronautics codes would ensure that construction of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in relation to safety hazards for people residing or working in the Proposed Project Study Area within two miles of a public airport.

NO IMPACT – OPERATION. The proposed Banducci Substation would not be located within an airport land use plan and would be located more than 9 miles away from the nearest public airport. The activities that would occur at the Proposed Project site would not be expected to interfere with a public airport or public use airport or create impacts that would result in a safety hazard for the people residing or working in the Proposed Project area. The addition of the fiber optic telecommunication cable to the existing and replaced subtransmission line poles would not alter the current physical alignment or height of the transmission poles and would not therefore present a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area near the Tehachapi Municipal Airport or the Mountain Valley Airport, resulting in no impact.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

NO IMPACT. There is one listed private airstrip located approximately 0.8 miles northeast of the proposed Banducci Substation site and approximately 40 feet east of proposed Telecommunications Route 2; however, the airstrip does not appear to have been active since 2006 and is currently overgrown by vegetation. SCE site reconnaissance indicated that there are no people residing or working at or within the vicinity of the private airstrip (SCE, 2014). As such, construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not be expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Proposed Project Study Area.

g. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED – CONSTRUCTION. The Proposed Project would be primarily located in rural area and residential areas. In the proposed Banducci Substation area there is only one main access road, Pelliser Road, to the proposed Banducci Substation site. SCE anticipates that Pelliser Road would serve as the main emergency access route to the site and that during construction, the perimeter fencing and security gates may interfere with emergency vehicle access or personnel evacuation from the site (SCE, 2014). In addition, construction-related activities and the presence of vehicles and equipment could potentially interfere with emergency access or response to the Proposed Project site or the few surrounding residences in the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire or chemical spill. Implementation of Mitigation Measures T-2 (Ensure Emergency Access and Response) and T-3 (Implement Traffic Management Plan) ensure that these potential impacts remain at a level that is less than significant and to ensure availability of emergency access to the Proposed Project site and the surrounding area during construction.

NO IMPACT – OPERATION. Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not increase demands on existing emergency response services and would therefore have no impact on adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

h. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Outside of the City of Tehachapi, the Proposed Project components are located in areas of grasslands, agricultural land, and low density rural residential areas. These areas are classified as Moderate to High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) by the CDF. The proposed substation and telecommunications routes are within Moderate to High FHSZs. In order to reduce the potential for wildland fire at Proposed Project work sites during construction and operation, SCE will implement APM HAZ-1, which would reduce wildfire risks. In order to reduce the potential impacts of risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires to less than significant, Mitigation Measure H-4 (Prepare a Fire Management Plan), which defines requirements and expands upon the Fire Management Plan required by APM HAZ-1, shall be implemented.

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.

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