EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) proposed Banducci Substation Project (Proposed Project) located in the unincorporated Cummings Valley area and the City of Tehachapi in Kern County, California. The purpose of this Proposed Project is to serve the current and projected demand for electricity, and enhance reliability and system operational flexibility in the unincorporated Cummings Valley area of Kern County and the surrounding areas (Electrical Needs Area or ENA).

The Proposed Project has a planned operation date of June 2016 in the ENA.

The Proposed Project would include the following major components:

- Construction of a new Banducci 66/12 kV Substation. Banducci Substation would be an unstaffed, automated, 56.0 MVA, low-profile substation with a potential capacity of 112 MVA at final build out. The proposed 66/12 kV distribution substation would be located on an approximately 6.3acre parcel in the unincorporated Cummings Valley area of Kern County.

- Construction of two new 66 kV subtransmission line segments that would loop the existing Correction-Cummings-Kern River 1 66 kV Subtransmission Line: one that would enter and one that would exit the proposed Banducci Substation creating the new Banducci-Kern River 1 66 kV Subtransmission Line and the new Banducci- Correction-Cummings 66 kV Subtransmission Line.

- Construction of three new underground 12 kV distribution getaways.

- Installation of telecommunications facilities to connect the proposed Banducci Substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

This PEA includes the information required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) Guidelines (State of California Public Utilities Commission Information and Criteria List, Appendix B, Section V), as well as the CPUC's requirements for a Permit to Construct (PTC) pursuant to General Order 131-D (D.94-06-014, Appendix A, as modified by D.95-08-038). The CPUC requires applicants to provide this information for review in compliance with the mandates of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This PEA is designed to meet these CPUC requirements.

Following a discussion of the purpose and need for the Proposed Project (Chapter 1, Purpose and Need), the alternatives (Chapter 2, Project Alternatives), and the project description (Chapter 3, Project Description), this PEA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project as well as the impacts potentially associated with an alternative substation site, an alternative subtransmission source line route, and proposed telecommunication routes (Chapter 4, Environmental Impact Assessment). Potential impacts are assessed for all environmental

factors contained in the most recent CEQA Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix A). With implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) listed in Table ES.1: Applicant Proposed Measures, the PEA concludes that the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project would be reduced to less than significant levels.

A comparison of alternatives is described in Chapter 5, Comparison of Alternatives. Cumulative impacts identified for the Proposed Project are described in Chapter 6, Other CEQA Considerations. No growth inducing impacts would be associated with the Proposed Project.

The names and titles of persons assisting in the preparation of this document are listed in Appendix B.

Table ES.1 Applicant Proposed Measures

Applicant Proposed Measure	Description
APM BIO-1	**Pre-construction Surveys and Construction Monitoring.** To the extent feasible, biological monitors would monitor construction activities in areas with special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, or unique resources to ensure such resources are avoided.
APM BIO- 2	**Pre-Construction Surveys for Nesting Birds/Raptors.** SCE would conduct project-wide nesting bird surveys and remove trees and other vegetation if feasible outside of the nesting season. If a tree or pole containing a raptor nest must be removed during nesting season, or if work is scheduled to take place in close proximity to an active nest on an existing transmission tower or pole, SCE biologists would determine appropriate nesting buffers based on a project specific nesting bird management plan or consultation with the appropriate agencies.
APM BIO- 3	**Burrowing Owl.** Biologists would conduct a preconstruction burrowing owl survey of the Proposed Project Study Area no more than 30 days prior to construction. Construction activities will be scheduled and planned to avoid burrowing owls and their burrows. A 250-foot buffer will be placed around active nest and the site will be avoided, where feasible. If occupied burrows cannot be avoided, an appropriate relocation strategy would be developed in conjunction with the CDFG and may include collapsing burrows outside of nesting season and using exclusionary devices to reduce impacts to the burrowing owl. Biological monitors would monitor all construction activities that have the potential to impact active burrows.

Applicant Proposed Measure	Description
APM BIO- 4	**Tehachapi Slender Salamander.** If project activities would be located within oak woodlands and ravines, construction activities would avoid displacement of rocks, logs, bark, and other debris in thick leaf litter, near talus slopes. For these areas, a biologist would be present to ensure that construction activities do not impact this species, particularly during periods of peak activity, such as rainy or wet nights with moderate temperatures.
APM BIO- 5	**Avoidance of Sensitive Habitats.** SCE would minimize impacts and permanent loss of Big Sagebrush Scrub, oak woodlands, and aquatic features at construction sites by flagging native vegetation to be avoided. If unable to avoid impacts to native vegetation, a project revegetation plan would be prepared in coordination with the appropriate agencies for areas of native habitat temporarily impacted during construction.
APM PA-1	**Paleontological Resources Treatment Plan.** A Paleontological Resources Treatment Plan shall be developed for construction within areas that have been identified as having a high sensitivity for paleontological resources or in areas where construction activities would exceed 10 feet in depth. The Paleontological Resources Treatment Plan would be prepared by a professional paleontologist in accordance with the recommendations of the SVP.
APM HAZ-1	**Fire Management Plan.** A Fire Management Plan would be developed by SCE prior to the start of construction.