

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING (MS 725)

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SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401-1400

PHONE (909) 383-4557

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www.dot.ca.gov/dist8

*Serious Drought.
Help save water!*

September 14, 2015

Ms. Billie Blanchard
CPUC/BLM
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104

Southern California Edison West of Devers Upgrade Project
08-SBd 215-PM 1.452; SBd-62 PM R1.374; RIV-10 PM 72.718-115.536

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for Southern California Edison's Proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project. It will be located within the existing West of Devers transmission corridor in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and traverses local and regional roadways including, Interstate 10 (I-10), Interstate 215 (I-215), and State Route (SR-62).

The project proposes upgrades to existing 220 kV transmission lines between San Bernardino Vista and Devers Substations; equipment changes at seven substations; relocation of 66kV sub-transmission lines and 12 kV distribution lines; and installation of telecommunication lines and equipment. Temporary road or traffic lane closures and traffic controls would be required during stringing of overhead conductors and ground wire across roads, movement of large equipment, and trenching or boring in locations where lines would be placed underground. The project would require overhead conductors be strung across I-10, I-215, and SR-62 at various points.

Although portions of the proposed project are within Riverside, San Bernardino Cities, and County jurisdiction, policies and regulations that govern the State Highway System (SHS) take precedence and are applicable to all activities that impact the SHS. Public utility facilities will be granted permission to cross State highways; however the placement of longitudinal utilities within freeway and expressway right of way is prohibited under Caltrans policy.

Permits

This project as proposed will require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit; "Chapter Six-Utilities" of the Encroachment Permit Manual is most applicable to this project. The following noted sections of Chapter 6 are a few standards, which should be reviewed and incorporated into the project

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process. However, these sections may not represent all of the applicable requirements for the proposed utility work.

- **606 ENCROACHMENTS ON FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS**
This section describes requirements for transverse and longitudinal utility encroachments on freeways and expressways.
- **606.3 Transverse Encroachments - Table 6.1**

Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permit Chapter 600-Utilities Permits website for further information:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment_permits_manual/index.html

Caltrans has the discretionary authority to issue special permits for the movement of vehicles/loads exceeding statutory limitations on the size, weight, and loading of vehicles contained in Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code. Requests for such special permits require the completion of, and application for a Transportation Permit. Information regarding Transportation Permit application can found on the website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/permits/>

D.16.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- Preparation of a Construction Transportation Plan and Traffic Control Plan as noted in **Mitigation Measures for Impact T-1 (page D.16-14)** Correct the first sentence to read "...conductors be strung across regional routes I-10, I-215 and **SR-62** (not SR-68).
- It is recommended that there be appropriate signage notifications of construction traffic throughout the construction period.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments concerning this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (909) 383-4557 or Rebecca Forbes at (909) 388-7139.

Sincerely,



MARK ROBERTS
Office Chief
Community and Regional Planning