

Southern California Edison
WODUP A.13-10-020

DATA REQUEST SET A.13-10-020 WODUP ED-SCE-02

To: ENERGY DIVISION
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Question BIO-04b:

Biological Resources

BIO-4 Please provide details of wire removal in special-status species habitat, critical habitat, and riparian or stream channel habitat.

b. Please describe anticipated impacts of wire removal on special-status species habitat, critical habitat, and riparian or stream channel habitat and any measures that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts.

Response to Question BIO-04b:

As explained in the response to Question No. BIO-04a, the removal of conductor would be performed under tension and would be performed in a manner that intends to avoid allowing the conductor to contact the ground or drag through vegetation. During the removal activity, the sockline would drag across the ground and over vegetation and may even drag through riparian vegetation. However, dragging the sockline would not result in a measurable impact because the rope used is typically lightweight nylon and would not destroy vegetation and would likely not do any substantial damage to plants. Moreover, workers may need to traverse the path of the sockline to prevent it from getting entangled, where it is safe to do so. Biological monitors would be present to assist with this task and point out any occupied nest sites detected or other sensitive biological resources.

As also explained in the response to Question No. BIO-04a, some potential exists for a conductor to unpredictably drop to the ground due to equipment, material failure, or accident, which would then result in limited disturbance to the ground or vegetation where the conductor makes contact. This ground disturbance would be narrow and linear, consisting of a thin gouge or drag mark. Actual impacts are nearly impossible to quantify because such incidental or accidental occurrences cannot be known. Due to the very limited and incidental nature of such impacts, these limited incidental impacts would not be expected to increase the significance of construction impacts for the purpose of the CEQA significance determination.

In general, other than to remove the conductors under tension to keep them from contacting the ground or drag through vegetation, no special measures would be taken during removal or stringing to protect special status species habitat. However, in limited instances where SCE can identify a potential for the conductor to come into contact with the ground due to excessive span lengths or terrain changes, where it is physically feasible, safe to do so, and where the installation would prevent damage (rather than contribute further damage), SCE would install cribbing, guard structures or other equivalent provisions to prevent impacts to sensitive resources within the ROW.