*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-05:**

## Biological Resources

**BIO-5** Please provide details of wire installation across riparian or stream channel habitat. Will wire installation across drainages be accomplished entirely by helicopter, or will other methods be used? Will personnel or equipment traverse drainages during wire installation? Please describe anticipated impacts of wire installation on riparian/drainage habitat and any measures that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts.

**Response to Question BIO-05:**

Wire installation cannot be accomplished entirely by helicopter. A helicopter would be utilized to fly in the sockline. However, a helicopter is incapable of pulling conductor, therefore requiring the use of pulling and tensioning equipment. Please refer to the following PEA sections for additional information related to details of wire installation and helicopter use:

3.2.3.10 Wire Stringing
3.2.3.11 Transmission Wire Pulling and Splicing Locations
3.2.3.12 Helicopter Use
3.2.3.13 Installation of FAA Considerations for Transmission and Subtransmission Lines

Equipment would not traverse drainages during wire installation, though, in limited instances, personnel may be required to walk across drainages where it is physically feasible and safe to do so, if cribbing, guard structures or other equivalent provision installation is required to prevent impact.

The sockline contacting vegetation and even potentially dragging across or through riparian vegetation, streams, or open water 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. Furthermore, the rope, would have no water quality impact, and would only be in contact with vegetation for a short duration. The sockline is considered a BMP that prevents the heavier and larger conductor from touching or damaging vegetation. Where it is safe to do so, workers may need to traverse the path of the sockline to prevent it from getting entangled. Biological monitors would be present to assist with this task and point out any occupied nest sites detected or other sensitive biological resources.

Regarding wire pulling activities, depending on the specific angle of transmission line, in limited instances where significant areas of riparian canopy are located, where it is physically feasible, safe to do so, and where the installation would prevent damage (rather than contribute further damage), SCE would install guard structures or other equivalent provisions to prevent damage to

the riparian canopy.

Otherwise, areas in which full clearance of the riparian canopy is not possible, targeted trimming may be proposed and would be authorized by the CDFW under a Streambed Alteration Agreement which will include additional measures to further minimize or if necessary mitigate impacts.