

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-10:

Biological Resources

BIO-10 The 2012 and 2013 small mammal reports do not discuss the criteria for determining suitable habitat or selection of trapping sites for target species. Please provide this information.

Response to Question BIO-10:

As described in the Summary Report for Special-Status Rodent Trapping (LSA August 28, 2013), "Habitat assessments were conducted along access roads and associated infrastructure being considered by SCE for the Proposed Project. Examination of aerial images to locate suitable habitat was followed up by ground visits to many areas to identify the most promising trapping sites for the target species." The suitable habitat areas below were also used to determine potential impacts.

Grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas at the grassland-scrub ecotone within the range of Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi* ; SKR) were considered potentially suitable habitat for that species. Dense grass was generally avoided. Areas in the vicinity of historically occupied sites were given special consideration. Essentially, any native habitat east of Whitewater River was considered potentially suitable for Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi* ; PSPM), but more sandy areas received the most attention. West of the Whitewater River, open scrub areas to about Beaumont were considered potentially suitable for either PSPM or Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus* ; LAPM), with washes and nearby areas considered to have the highest potential. West of Beaumont, generally only open scrub habitat associated with drainages was considered potentially suitable for LAPM.