# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form

Project Name: West of Devers Upgrade Project  Request Prepared By: Sylvia Granados

Date Approval Required: 11/20/2017  Variance Request No.: 1

Date Submitted: 11/13/2017 revised 11/17/2017  Location: Maraschino Telecom Route (see revised Figure 2, pages 47 through 56 attached)

Landowner: SCE ROW/City of Beaumont  Landowner Parcel Number:

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed and Disturbed Open Space

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO ■ YES Specify: See "Biological Resources" and "Jurisdictional Waters" below

Modifying (check as many as apply): ☐ MITIGATION MEASURE ☐ PLAN/PROCEDURE ☐ SPECIFICATION ■ DRAWING ☐ PERMIT CONDITION ☐ OTHER

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): NTPR #3 Figure 2, Pages 47 through 56

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**Description of Change and Justification** (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

Attachments:

■ CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ☐ ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS ☐ CORRESPONDENCE ☐ OTHER:

NTPR #3 Map Figure 2, pages 47 through 56, have been revised to reflect a minor shift/adjustment to the previously approved Maraschino Telecom alignment. The adjustment has been made to adapt to new road construction and development along Highland Springs Avenue and to minimize disturbance along Highland Springs Avenue and First Street by using existing conduit for the installation of new fiber optic cable. The adjustment does not create new significant impacts for the project. The revised project description is as follows:

**T**he existing Devers-Valley OPGW will connect to the MEER building in Maraschino Substation (FEIR page B-16 Item #3). Approximately *645 feet* of fiber optic cable and new underground conduit will be installed from existing Devers-Valley No. 2 500-kV structure M24-T1 in the City of Beaumont, to a new manhole located on the west side of Highland Springs Avenue and the north boundary of the SCE 500 kV ROW. From this location, approximately *5,250 feet* of fiber optic cable will be installed north, in existing conduit, to underground vault V5528679, located approximately 300 feet north of Potrero Boulevard. From this existing vault, approximately 1,520 feet of fiber optic cable and new underground conduit will be installed to a new manhole on East First Street. From the manhole, another 9,230 feet of fiber optic cable will be installed *in existing conduit* on East First Street to riser pole 4201995E, where the line will transition overhead for approximately 4,680 feet along East First Street and north on Veile Avenue on existing subtransmission poles to the northeast corner of the Maraschino Substation. From this location, the fiber optic cable will transition underground for approximately 400 feet in an existing underground conduit and cable trench to the MEER building located in Maraschino Substation.

Updated Temporary Disturbance Impacts:

| | |
|---|---|
| Developed/Disturbed | Approximately 2.4 acres |
| Grassland/Forbland | Approximately 2.4 acres |

Biological Resources:

Most of the alignment, from the Maraschino Substation south and east to the intersection of Crooked Creek Road and Highland Springs Road, is located in a highly urbanized, developed/disturbed portion of the city of Beaumont. No special-status species habitats are located along this portion of the alignment. Therefore, no special-status species are anticipated. This portion of the alignment includes habitats for nesting birds (e.g., trees, shrubs, the ground surface,

man-made structures). The work is expected to be conducted outside the breeding season (January 1 – August 31 for this project); therefore, no impacts to nesting birds are anticipated.

Suitable habitats for listed riparian bird species are located immediately southwest of the intersection of Highland Springs Road with Crooked Creek Road and east of Highland Springs Road from Breckenridge Avenue to the DPV2 tie-in. The latter is historically occupied by Least Bell's Vireo (LBVI) (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Construction activities are not expected to occur during the breeding season. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

The south end of the alignment is located in a quasi-native area. Soils are relatively compact compared to the native scrub habitats in the vicinity. Due in part to post-construction restoration efforts for DPV2, vegetation including weedy grasses and forbs such as bromes (*Bromus* spp.), mustards, and Doveweed (*Croton setiger*); annual grasses; and immature native scrub species such as four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) were observed. The work areas are located within a habitat historically suitable for the federal Endangered and California Threatened Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) (*Dipodomys stephensi*) and other special-status small mammal species such as the San Diego pocket mice (*Chaetodipus fallax* ssp.) (California Species of Special Concern). SKR and the San Diego pocket mice are Covered Species in the WR-MSHCP. SKR are known to occur in higher quality habitats south of the site. However, the habitat within the work areas and immediate vicinity is highly degraded. According to Mitigation Measure WIL-2d, a pedestrian survey was conducted by Stephen Myers (Wood Group; formerly AMEC Foster Wheeler), a Qualified Biologist holding a USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit for SKR. Current or recent diggings of Botta's pocket gophers (*Thomomys bottae*) were observed and burrows consistent with pocket mice species were observed. A few small burrows consistent with kangaroo rats were observed, but found in degraded condition (i.e., caving in and covered by spider webs). No recent sign of SKR occupation (e.g., active burrows, dust baths, tracks with tail drag) was observed. Therefore, SCE is not required to conduct trapping surveys or to implement additional measures. No impacts to SKR are anticipated. Due to the "drive and crush" nature of the proposed activities and large populations of San Diego pocket mice, impacts are expected to be minimal.

Due to the degraded nature of the habitat (albeit recovering) and lack of positive survey data from surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming periods in 2015, 2016, and 2017, no special-status plants are expected to occur. No special-status plants were observed; however, the preconstruction survey was conducted outside the typical blooming periods for the special-status plants potentially occurring in the area.

The methods and results of a pre-construction clearance survey can be found on the Field Reporting Environmental Database, FRED_Survey_Report_000004.

No impacts to regulated trees are anticipated at this time. If tree removal or trimming are required, the contractor will be responsible for obtaining permits, if needed, from the local jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional Waters

The alignment crosses a jurisdictional feature north of the intersection of East 1st Street and Veile Avenue. However, the feature will be avoided. Telecom improvements in the vicinity of the feature involve removal of existing and stringing of new telecom lines on existing poles. Ground-based activities will not occur within the mapped limits of the jurisdictional feature.

Cultural Resources

The area has been surveyed for archaeological resources. Results were negative, as reported in:

McLean, Roderic, Natalie Brodie, and Jacqueline Hall. 2013. *Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory, West of Devers Project, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.* LSA Associates, Inc. for Southern California Edison.

and DeCarlo, Matthew M., Scott C. Justus, and William T. Eckhardt. 2013. *Summary Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Proposed Southern California Edison Devers-Palo Verde 2 500kV Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California.* ASM Affiliates for Southern California Edison and Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

**Resources:**

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT ■ SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT ☐ N/A

New Survey Report Attached: ■ YES ☐ NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: FRED_Survey_Report_000004

Cultural NO RESOURCES PRESENT ☐ RESOURCES PRESENT WITH PROJECT APE: ☐ YES ■ NO
☐ (PAVED/GRAVEL AREA AND NO GROUND DISTURBANCE)

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference: McLean, Roderic, Natalie Brodie, and Jacqueline Hall. 2013. *Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory, West of Devers Project, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.* LSA Associates, Inc. for Southern California Edison.

and DeCarlo, Matthew M., Scott C. Justus, and William T. Eckhardt. 2013. *Summary Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Proposed Southern California Edison Devers-Palo Verde 2 500kV Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California.* ASM Affiliates for Southern California Edison and Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

If not in APE, attach new survey report.

**Other Potential Impacts:** (Check any potential changes to permitted impacts and provide details below. Attach additional sheets if needed.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ AIR QUALITY | ☐ LAND USE | ☐ TRAFFIC |
| ☐ BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES | ☐ NOISE | ☐ VISUAL |
| ☐ CONTAMINATED SOILS | ☐ PALEO RESOURCES | ☐ WATER RESOURCES |
| ☐ CULTURAL RESOURCES | ☐ SOCIOECONOMIC | ☐ WETLANDS |
| ☐ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | ☐ STORM WATER (SWPPP) | |

NA

**CEQA and Permitting:** (Provide details for any "Yes" answer and attach additional information if needed.)

1. Will modification involve substantial changes that will require major changes to the CEQA document?
   ☐ YES ■ NO
2. Will modification result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts?
   ☐ YES ■ NO
3. Additional agency notifications and/or permit modifications required? ☐ YES ■ NO

**Conditions of Approval or Reasons for Denial:** (Attach additional information if needed.)

**___ Required Signatures:** (Attached email approvals may be used in lieu of signatures.)

__X_ Chief Construction Inspector or Foreman: ■ VARIANCE MODIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

Name: Rodney Lloyd Signature: See signature page attached Date: _____

Environmental Inspector: ■ FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

Name: Hannah Buckley Signature: See signature page attached Date: _____

__X_ Land Agent: ■ CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS ☐ NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: Anjeanette Barrett Signature: See signature page attached Date: _____

_X__ Environmental Compliance Lead: ■ APPROVED ☐ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (SEE CONDITIONS ABOVE) ☐ DENIED

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: See signature page attached Date: _____