

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 28, 2018

Ryan Stevenson  
Principal Advisor  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern California Edison  
8631 Rush St, General Office 4 – 235E (2nd Floor)  
Rosemead, CA, 91770

RE: West of Devers Upgrade Project: Minor Project Refinement #7

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On February 23, 2018, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted Minor Project Refinement (MPR) #7 request for the connection of a temporary pipe from the approved well (approved under MPR #6) to the Poultry Material Yard, and a secondary overhead temporary power line from an existing SCE distribution pole on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road to an existing distribution pole inside the Poultry Material Yard approved under the California Public Utilities Commission [(CPUC) Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1, June 29, 2017] in support of the West of Devers Upgrade Project in Riverside County, California. As noted in NTP #1, power was proposed to be extended to the Poultry Yard, but the specifics weren't provided; MPR #7 provides the details. Additional information was provided by SCE on February 28.

The CPUC voted on August 18, 2016 to approve SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project (Decision D.16-08-017) and a Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2014051041).

The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the West of Devers Upgrade Project during implementation. The MMCRP also acknowledges that temporary changes to the project, such as final project design and engineering or need for addition workspace, are anticipated and common practice for construction efforts of this scale and that a Minor Project Refinement request would be required for these activities. This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this Minor Project Refinement, and that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested Minor Project Refinement activities.

Minor Project Refinements are reviewed for consistency with CEQA requirements and are located within the geographic boundary of the project study area. Minor Project Refinements do not create new or substantially more severe significant impacts, or conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy. Also, they do not trigger other permit requirements unless the appropriate agency has approved the change, and clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

Minor Project Refinement #7 for the use of a temporary PVC pipe to convey water from the approved well to the Poultry Material Yard, and a secondary overhead temporary power line into the Poultry Material Yard, is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

**SCE Minor Project Refinement Request.** Excerpts from the SCE Revised Minor Project Refinement request, received February 23, 2018 and additional information provided on February 28 is presented below (indented [brackets for clarification]):

[SCE is requesting that] a 3.5-inch diameter temporary PVC pipe be connected to the Poultry Material Yard well, approved under Minor Project Refinement #6, and installed on structural supports outside of a jurisdictional water feature to convey water supply over the jurisdictional feature in a seamless secondary containment casing. The pipe will transition below ground under the existing access road and into the Poultry Material Yard. [The well is located approximately 150 feet southwest of the southwest section of the Poultry Material Yard, and approximately 15 feet east of an existing unpaved access road in a previously disturbed area.]

The 3.5-inch diameter PVC pipe will connect above ground to the existing well head equipment and transition into a rigid and seamless 5-inch diameter steel casing that will span the width of the jurisdictional channel between structural supports erected outside of the jurisdictional banks of the water feature. The pipe will then transition underground on the west side of the Poultry Material Yard access driveway and into the yard, where the pipe will daylight and connect to a temporary holding tank. The rigid and seamless casing pipe will provide secondary containment to prevent potential drips from entering the jurisdictional water feature.

A secondary overhead temporary power line will be installed from an existing SCE distribution pole on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road, across the street to an existing distribution pole inside the Poultry Material Yard, to service office trailers and provide yard temporary power. This will require the installation of a new transformer on the existing distribution pole on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road.

#### Biological Resources

A preconstruction survey of the Poultry Material Yard and well location was conducted on February 7, 2018 (FRED Survey Report 000010) in advance of the Poultry Material Yard development.

Burrowing Owls - Burrowing owl habitat in the form of annual and perennial grasslands and scrublands characterized by low growing vegetation is present within the survey buffer, but not in the well work area boundary. Burrowing owls often inhabit the margins along agricultural fields and development. Therefore, burrowing owls have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Poultry Yard and associated water and power source. However, no burrowing owls or sign were observed during the preconstruction survey.

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, are located within the yard, the water source work area, and the vicinity. No active nests were observed during the preconstruction survey and no avian species were observed exhibiting behavior suggestive of breeding activity within the survey area.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher – No suitable habitat for the species occurs within 500 feet of the water and power source location. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Golden Eagle – Habitat marginally suitable for golden eagle nesting is located within 2 miles of the work location. Based on protocol surveys conducted in 2016 and 2017, the yard and associated water source are not within 2 miles of any known golden eagle nests. While golden eagles may forage in the vicinity of the work location, no impacts are anticipated.

Stephen's Kangaroo Rat – Based on habitat assessments and protocol trapping surveys conducted for the project, the water and power source and proposed conveyance are not located within 100 feet of Stephen's kangaroo rat habitat.

Special-status Plants – No special-status plants were observed during previous special-status plant surveys, therefore, the potential for special-status plant species to occur within the areas potentially affected by the water and power source and associated conveyance is low.

Regulated Trees – No trees requiring trimming or removal have been identified for this scope-of-work.

Jurisdictional Waters – A jurisdictional drainage feature is mapped along the access road along the western border of the yard, between the water and power source and the Poultry Yard. Impacts to the jurisdictional features will be

avoided with the installation of above ground 3.5-inch diameter PVC pipe installed within a rigid 5-inch diameter, seamless steel casing, that will span the width of the channel between structural supports erected outside of the jurisdictional banks of the water source. The activities will not involve any alteration or fill activities within the limits of the jurisdictional feature.

To mitigate potential impacts to special-status species, SCE will conduct pre-construction surveys prior the start of construction, including surveys for nesting birds from January 1 to August 31. If special-status resources are identified, SCE will implement the applicable mitigation measures and/or permit conditions, as determined in coordination with the CPUC, BLM, CDFW, USFWS, or other applicable regulatory agencies. In addition, a Biological Monitor will conduct spot check sweeps regularly thereafter. Therefore, no impacts to sensitive biological resources are anticipated.

### Cultural Resources

The well site was included in the LSA 2012 Cultural record search and covered during the cultural pedestrian survey conducted by LSA for the WOD Material Yards in 2013, meeting the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) compliance. No cultural resources are recorded within 100 feet of the work area. No archeological or Native American monitoring are required, per the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP; 2016). No additional ground disturbance will occur. No impacts to cultural resources are required during water truck filling.

### **CPUC Evaluation of Minor Project Refinement Request**

In accordance with the MMCRP, the subject Minor Project Refinement request was reviewed by CPUC to confirm that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested Minor Project Refinement activities and that the subject request was within the geographic boundary of the Project study area. The following discussion summarizes this analysis for biological resources and cultural resources. A list of bulleted conditions is presented to define additional information and clarifications regarding mitigation requirements. In some cases, these items exceed the requirements of the Mitigation Measures (MMs) and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs), and are based on specific site conditions and/or are proposed conditions by SCE.

**Biological Resources:** The Poultry Material Yard well (approved under MPR #6) is located southwest of the yard and the proposed pipe will convey water into the Poultry Material Yard, and a secondary overhead temporary power line will run from an existing SCE distribution pole on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road to an existing distribution pole inside the Poultry Material Yard. These work areas are located within the biological study area for the Project. Jurisdictional features will be avoided.

SCE conducted a preconstruction biological surveys on February 7, 8 and 12, 2018 at the Poultry Material Yard and associated well site. The preconstruction target species/resources for this project area included: general biological resources, burrowing owl, coastal California gnatcatcher, nesting birds, special-status small mammals, Stephen's kangaroo rat, jurisdictional waters, special-status plants, and regulated trees. Previous habitat assessments and focused/protocol surveys were also conducted to support licensing, permitting, and preconstruction planning efforts for the project.

Burrowing owls have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Poultry Material Yard and associated water source; however, no burrowing owls or sign was observed. No suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher occurs within the Poultry Material Yard or well site. Habitat marginally suitable for golden eagle nesting is located within 2 miles of the work location. While golden eagles may forage in the vicinity of the work location, no impacts are anticipated and no golden eagles were observed during the preconstruction survey. Suitable substrates for nesting birds, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, are located within the yard, well work area, and the vicinity. No active nests or young of any bird species were observed, and no avian species were observed exhibit behavior suggestive of breeding activity within the survey area. There is some potential for special-status small mammals (e.g., pocket mouse species)

to occur in the vicinity of the yard. Due to regular disking and general habitat degradation; however, special-status small mammals are not expected to occur. The nearest suitable habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat is approximately 50 feet south of the survey area. Due to the nature of the habitat within the yard limits and immediate vicinity and based on previous survey results, it was determined that impacts are not anticipated. Two jurisdictional drainage features are mapped along the access road for the transmission line and western border of the yard. The features do not intersect the yard and will be avoided. No special-status plants were observed within the yard or survey buffer (including the well area) during previous special-status plant surveys; therefore, the potential for special-status plant species to occur within the Poultry Material Yard boundary is low. No trees are located inside the boundary of the Poultry Material yard or within the work area limits for the well; therefore, no regulated trees will be impacted.

SCE will conduct pre-construction survey sweeps prior to construction, including surveys for nesting birds from January 1 to August 31. If special-status resources are identified, SCE will implement the applicable mitigation measures and/or permit conditions, as determined in coordination with the CPUC, BLM, CDFW, USFWS, or other applicable regulatory agencies. In addition, a Biological Monitor will conduct spot check sweeps weekly thereafter. Therefore, no impacts to sensitive biologic resources are anticipated.

**Cultural Resources:** The existing well and existing SCE distribution poles are located within existing disturbed and/or developed areas. These areas were covered during previous cultural surveys for which results were negative. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

**The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:**

- All applicable Project MMs, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Minor Project Refinement shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities. All permits and plans shall be made available to the CPUC EM upon request.
- SCE will conduct pre-construction surveys prior to construction, including surveys for nesting birds from January 1 to August 31. If special-status resources are identified, SCE will implement the applicable mitigation measures and/or permit conditions, as determined in coordination with the CPUC, BLM, CDFW, USFWS, or other applicable regulatory agencies. In addition, a Biological Monitor will conduct spot check sweeps weekly thereafter.
- All crew members shall be WEAP trained prior to working on the Project. A log shall be maintained on-site with the names of all crew personnel trained. The WEAP training brochure can be provided in Spanish or other languages if appropriate. All participants will receive a hard-hat sticker for ease of compliance verification.
- No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes in technique and mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a Minor Project Refinement request shall be submitted for CPUC review.
- The temporary PVC pipe connecting the well to the Poultry Material Yard shall be removed at the completion of construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billie Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billie Blanchard  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen