

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 25, 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 #13

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On May 23, 2018, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Minor Project Refinement (MPR) #13 for use of 18 existing water sources along the project alignment to support construction activities for the West of Devers Upgrade Project in the Cities Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Redlands, Beaumont, Banning, Cabazon, and Whitewater, in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.

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 #13 for use of 18 existing water sources in support of the West of Devers Project, 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 May 23, 2018 is presented below (indented):

SCE is requesting approval for the use of existing water source locations along the project alignment at the following locations:

- Ogrady Lane water source (approved under MPR #6), City of Beaumont – an encased 2.5-inch fire hose will be temporary installed above ground, on developed/disturbed land, from the approved hydrant to a stand tank temporarily installed in the transmission right-of-way.
- 22698 Grand Terrace Road, City of Grand Terrace – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 24980 Crestview Drive, City of Loma Linda – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 11898 Welebir Street, City of Loma Linda – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 26299 Beaumont Avenue, City of Loma Linda – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 1400 Mountain View Avenue, City of Redlands – Potable Hydrant (back-up for the non-potable hydrant on Research Drive)
- 13024 San Timoteo Canyon Road, City of Redlands – Non-potable water well (non-potable water source)
- Trevino Trail and Palmer Avenue, City of Beaumont – Purple Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- Cherry Valley Blvd and Sanders Street, City of Beaumont – Purple Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- Day Break Way and Midnight Sun Drive, City of Beaumont – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- E. Hoffer Street and N. Hathaway Street, City of Banning – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 4033 Mockingbird Lane, City of Banning – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- Millard Pass and Apache Trail, City of Cabazon – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 49970 Seminole Drive, City of Cabazon – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 50999 Seminole Drive, City of Cabazon – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 12929 Danbury Street, City of Whitewater – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- 54372 Kindale Drive, City of Whitewater – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)
- Painted Hills Road and Star Lane, City of Whitewater – Potable Hydrant (non-potable water not available)

Water trucks will park adjacent to the existing water source locations on disturbed/developed roads. Only occasional short-term filling of water trucks will occur, while allowing access to local land uses. No ground disturbance will occur at the water source locations. No impacts to regulated trees, jurisdictional waters, biological, or cultural resources are required for use of the water sources.

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 agriculture, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use, noise, paleontological resources, traffic and transportation, visual resources, water resources, and wildland fire. 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.

Agriculture: No Important Farmland will be impacted with the implementation of this MPR. The water source locations are on developed/disturbed land.

Air Quality: During proposed construction, SCE shall implement the Fugitive Dust Control Plan approved by the CPUC on May 22, 2017, as well as the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan approved by CPUC on June 8, 2017. In addition, in compliance with MM AQ-1b, off-road equipment with engines larger than 50 horsepower shall have engines that meet or exceed U.S. EPA/CARB Tier 3 Emissions Standards. No additional impacts to air quality will occur with the implementation of MPR.

Biological Resources: SCE submitted biological resource survey information with the MPR #13 request. The proposed water sources are existing hydrants located within existing disturbed or developed areas. Only occasional short-term filling of water trucks will occur at each location, while allowing access to local land uses. Water trucks will park immediately adjacent to the water sources to fill using equipped hoses and on-board pumps. No additional ground disturbance will occur. A desktop analysis was conducted for each water source using aerial imagery and project biological data. Some water sources are located adjacent to habitats that may support special-status plants and terrestrial wildlife. Because no ground-disturbance will occur and water trucks will be positioned on existing disturbances, no impacts to special-status terrestrial wildlife (e.g., burrowing small mammals) or special-status plants are anticipated. All water sources are located adjacent to suitable habitats for nesting birds protected by the California Fish and Game Code and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface. The water source locations are situated such that the proposed activities would be conducted from existing disturbed/developed areas. In addition, the act of filling water trucks will be of short duration and similar to baseline conditions (e.g., public traffic, residences). Preconstruction surveys for nesting birds, and ongoing surveys and monitoring for nesting birds, will take place during the nesting season (January 1 – August 31).

The Ogrady Lane water source is unique in that the above ground piping will be installed to convey water from the source to a stand tank at a nearby structure work area. In addition to the general site conditions described above for all water sources addressed in this MPR request, the Ogrady water source installation is located within 500-feet of habitat suitable for the listed riparian bird species. Several habitat patches in this portion of the Project area are occupied by least Bell's vireo (LBVI). On April 10, 2018, LBVI biologists John Green and/or Steve Myers began conducting protocol surveys in suitable riparian bird habitat within 500 feet of construction areas. Three rounds of protocol surveys have been completed so far, with the third round conducted on May 14, 2018. Several LBVI and their nests have been identified in the area this season; however, no nests have been identified within 500-feet of the proposed piping installation, which will be installed on disturbed/developed land bordering a residential development. To mitigate potential impacts to special-status species habitats, the above ground piping at Ogrady Lane will be encased in a sleeve to prevent puncture and control potential drips.

SCE will conduct preconstruction surveys prior to initiating use at each water source, 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 thereafter. Also, the proposed activities will avoid jurisdictional areas. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this MPR.

Cultural Resources: SCE submitted cultural resource information with the MPR #13 request. A Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) has been completed for the West of Devers Upgrade Project and was approved by the CPUC in October 2017. The proposed water sources are existing hydrants located within existing disturbed and/or developed areas. Only occasional short-term filling of a water truck will occur at each location. Water trucks will park immediately adjacent to the water sources using rubber-tired water trucks, and fill using equipped hoses and on-board pumps. No additional ground disturbance will occur. To meet regulatory guidelines detailed in the West of Devers CRMP (Williams 2016), a record search with the California Historical Resources Information Center (CHRIS) was conducted for all water source work areas. A pedestrian survey was also conducted at each work area (Buitenhuys, Connor. 2018. *Cultural Resources Assessment of Newly Identified Water Sources within the APE of the Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD)*, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.) Pedestrian surveys were negative. In the event of unanticipated discoveries, MM CL-1b, MM CL-1c, MM CL-1d and the CRMP requirements would be implemented. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated with the implementation of this MPR.

Geology and Soils: SCE conducted geotechnical studies to evaluate faults, landslides and unstable slopes, and soil characteristics as outlined in MMs G-1a, G-2a, and G-5a. The geotechnical survey reports were reviewed and approved by the CPUC on August 17, 2017. No ground disturbance will occur; therefore, no additional impacts to geology and soils will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: As required by MM HH-1a, SCE prepared and submitted a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan to the CPUC on September 27, 2017. Hazardous materials used and stored on site for the duration of construction activities will be managed according to the Plan. A Soil Management Plan has been developed consistent with MMs HH-2a and HH-3a to provide guidance for the proper handling, onsite management, and disposal of impacted soil that might be encountered during construction activities, including soil samples to be collected in construction areas where the land has historically or is currently being used for agriculture and would be subject to ground disturbance by the project. SCE's Soil Management Plan was combined with the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan described above. Also, SCE's contractor submitted information including written procedures for fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and an Emergency Response Plan. No additional impacts from hazards or hazardous materials will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Land Use: As required by MM LU-1a, a Construction Notification Plan was prepared by SCE and approved by CPUC on May 22, 2017. The Plan identified the procedures to ensure that SCE will inform property and business owners of the location and duration of construction. The Plan includes provisions for public noticing including mailers, newspaper advertisements, public venue notices, and includes the establishment of a public liaison and toll-free information hotline. No additional impacts to land use will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Noise: Best Management Practices for construction noise management will be implemented as outlined in MM N-1a to reduce construction noise exposure at noise-sensitive receptors and to avoid possible violations of local rules, standards, and ordinances during construction. Construction noise shall be confined to daytime, weekday hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) or an alternative schedule developed by SCE based on its coordination with local jurisdiction. Construction traffic and helicopter flights shall be routed away from residences and schools, where feasible. Water truck usage at each water source would be temporary. No additional impacts to noise will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Paleontological Resources: A Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) has been completed for the West of Devers Upgrade Project and was approved by the CPUC on May 9, 2017. In the event of unanticipated discoveries, MM PAL-1d and the PRMMP requirements would be implemented. No

ground disturbance will occur; therefore, no additional impacts to paleontological resources will occur with implementation of this MPR.

Traffic and Transportation: Consistent with MM T-1a and MM T-1b, Construction Transportation and Traffic Control Plans have been developed and approved. The Construction Transportation Plan describes timing of commutes, methods of reducing crew-related traffic, and other methods for reducing construction-generated additional traffic on regional and local roadways. No additional impacts to traffic and transportation will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Visual Resources: The use of existing water sources described in this MPR are temporary. No additional impacts to visual resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Water Resources: As required by MM WR-2a, SCE developed and submitted an Erosion Control Plan to the CPUC and BLM. The Erosion Control Plan was incorporated into the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will be kept onsite and readily available on request. SCE submitted the SWPPP to the CPUC on May 25, 2017. Any changes necessitated by this MPR will be incorporated into the SWPPP document. No additional impacts to water resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Wildland Fire: SCE submitted a Fire Management Plan on February 10, 2017 to satisfy the conditions of MM WF-1a and the Plan was approved by the CPUC on July 18, 2017. This Fire Management Plan has been submitted to local fire departments. The new work areas are in disturbed/developed land within urbanized areas. No additional impacts to wildland fire will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

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

- SCE shall provide the CPUC with updated GIS data of the locations of the existing water sources.
- 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.

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