

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: 3/15/2019 Variance Request No.: 25

Date Submitted: 3/11/2019 Location: 3X55 adjacent, Colton, San Bernardino County

Landowners: County of San Bernardino Landowner Parcel Numbers: 0294-061-01

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed/Disturbed, Grassland/Forbland, Coastal Sage Scrub

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: Suitable SKR Habitat, Suitable CAGN Habitat

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

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): Modification to NTP #4 Mapping

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CORRESPONDENCE OTHER: _____

Expansion of Supersite 3X55

An additional .36-acre work area is required west of Supersite 3X55 to facilitate tower construction and stringing activities associated with site 3X55, as shown in Figure 1.

The temporary work area consists of approximately 0.11-acre developed/disturbed land, 0.24-acre grassland/forbland, and 0.01-acre coastal sage scrub in the City of Colton, in San Bernardino County.

Biological Resources

A desktop analysis of publicly available data and relevant project data was conducted to determine the potential for special-status species to occur in the new work area. Since included in early iterations of project design, this new work area was included in the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments and focused surveys).

The new work area was covered within active preconstruction FRED Survey ID 000112 and Survey ID 000122:

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna – A historic western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*) occurrence is located approximately 530-feet southeast of the new work area. Tadpoles were found in a vernal pool in the spillway near Refuse Road and south of 3X55. The new work area is located upland of the habitat feature. No special-status herpetofauna were observed within the new work area during previous preconstruction surveys. The drainage pond associated with the landfill has the potential to house special-status herpetofauna, however a chain-link fence and large berm separates the pond from the work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Listed Riparian Birds – A small patch of occupied habitat for riparian birds (least Bell's vireo [LBVI]/Southwestern willow flycatcher [SWFL]) is mapped east of Refuse Road, approximately 840-feet southeast of the new work area. No impacts to riparian birds are expected as a result of construction in the new work area located on the opposite side of Refuse Road.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher – Suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) is mapped south of the new work area, on the opposite side of Refuse Road. Focused surveys for CAGN were conducted in March and April 2018. No CAGN were detected in Segment 3. Preconstruction clearance surveys will be conducted prior to the start of work. No impacts to CAGN are expected as a result of construction in the new work area.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat – The new work area is located in mapped suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat. Trapping surveys were conducted in Segment 3 in 2016, 2017, and 2018. No SKR were captured. No sign of SKR has been observed during previous pedestrian surveys. Based on a lack of historic data, habitat conditions, and negative results over several

years of surveys, SKR are not expected. Nonetheless, preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to the start of work. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. However, for the purpose of mitigation tracking, an equal portion of mapped suitable SKR habitat in Supersite 3X59 shown in Figure 2, will not be impacted by construction to offset impacts to mapped suitable SKR habitat in the new work area.

Special-status Bats – Approximately 840-feet southeast of the new work area, a cluster of trees associated with a water feature within the San Bernardino County Landfill was identified as potentially suitable for roosting bats during a bat habitat assessment conducted in May 2018 (see FRED Habitat Event 000006). Silver-haired bats and big brown bats were documented using these trees as a daytime and potential maternal roost site during the emergence survey conducted at Habitat Event 000006 on 7/25/18. An ESA has been established around this roost site in FRED and in the field. Given the high-volume of dump-truck traffic that occurs along Refuse Road between the work area and the bat buffer during regular work hours, project-related ingress/egress and construction in the new work area are not expected to impact roosting bats at Habitat Event 000006.

Special-status Small Mammals – Special-status small mammals such as the pallid San Diego pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, American badger, desert kit fox, and/or San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project area. Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. The work area is outside the known range of the Palm Springs pocket mouse. No mapped suitable habitat for the Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM) occurs within the work area. A historic San Diego pocket mouse occurrence is located approximately 190-feet west of the new work area; however, no special-status small mammals were observed within the new work area during previous surveys. No impacts to special-status mammals are expected, however, if any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed in accordance with the Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan.

Special-status Plants – Paniculate tarplant (*Deinandra paniculata*; CRPR 4.2) plants have been mapped approximately 380-feet northwest of the new work area. The previously mapped areas will be avoided to the extent possible. Care will be taken to limit work in the approved work area. Because these are CRPR 4 ranked species, no further mitigation action is required. Areas where Paniculate tarplant were identified during past survey efforts were revisited. No Paniculate tarplant or other special-status plants were observed within the new work area during previous surveys. The new work area and surrounding area experience a very high degree of grazing by feral donkeys, therefore, no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated.

Jurisdictional Waters –The non-wetland jurisdictional waterway located south of the new work area is separated from the project by a chain-link fence and raised berms. Therefore, no impacts to this waterway are anticipated. The new work site does not intersect jurisdictional waters. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Burrowing Owl – Burrowing owls have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the new work area. No burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign were observed within the new work area during previous surveys. Preconstruction clearance surveys and sweeps will be conducted prior to the start of construction activities. No impacts are anticipated.

Desert Tortoise – The new work area is not located within the range of the species. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, including trees, shrubs, and the ground surface, are located within the new work area and the vicinity. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to construction in the new work area. If active nests are found, potential impacts will be mitigated through implementation of the Nesting Bird Management Plan.

Golden Eagle – Based on aerial habitat assessments and protocol surveys conducted for the project, no suitable nesting habitat for golden eagles is located within 2 miles of the work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Regulated Trees – No tree trimming or tree removal is required for construction activities in the new work area.

Cultural Resources

The new work area is located within the WOD APE and was covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies *West of Devers: Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory* (LSA, 2013) and *Area of Potential Effects for the Engineering Refinements Survey and Recommendation of Eligibility for Cultural Resources with Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Project* (ASM, 2015). The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources.

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT N/A

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: The new work area was covered within active FRED Survey ID 00112 and Survey ID 000122.

Cultural: NO RESOURCES PRESENT RESOURCES PRESENT WITH PROJECT APE: YES NO

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference:

The new work area is located within the WOD APE and was covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies. The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources. *West of Devers: Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory (LSA, 2013) and Area of Potential Effects for the Engineering Refinements Survey and Recommendation of Eligibility for Cultural Resources with Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Project (ASM, 2015).*

If not in APE, cite new survey report:

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

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AIR QUALITY | <input type="checkbox"/> LAND USE | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> NOISE | <input type="checkbox"/> VISUAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTAMINATED SOILS | <input type="checkbox"/> PALEO RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER RESOURCES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CULTURAL RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIOECONOMIC | <input type="checkbox"/> WETLANDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | <input type="checkbox"/> STORM WATER (SWPPP) | |

NA

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

- Will modification involve substantial changes that will require major changes to the CEQA document?
 YES NO
- Will modification result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts?
 YES NO
- 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.)

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

Name: Jeff Miller Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/8/2019

Environmental Inspector: FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

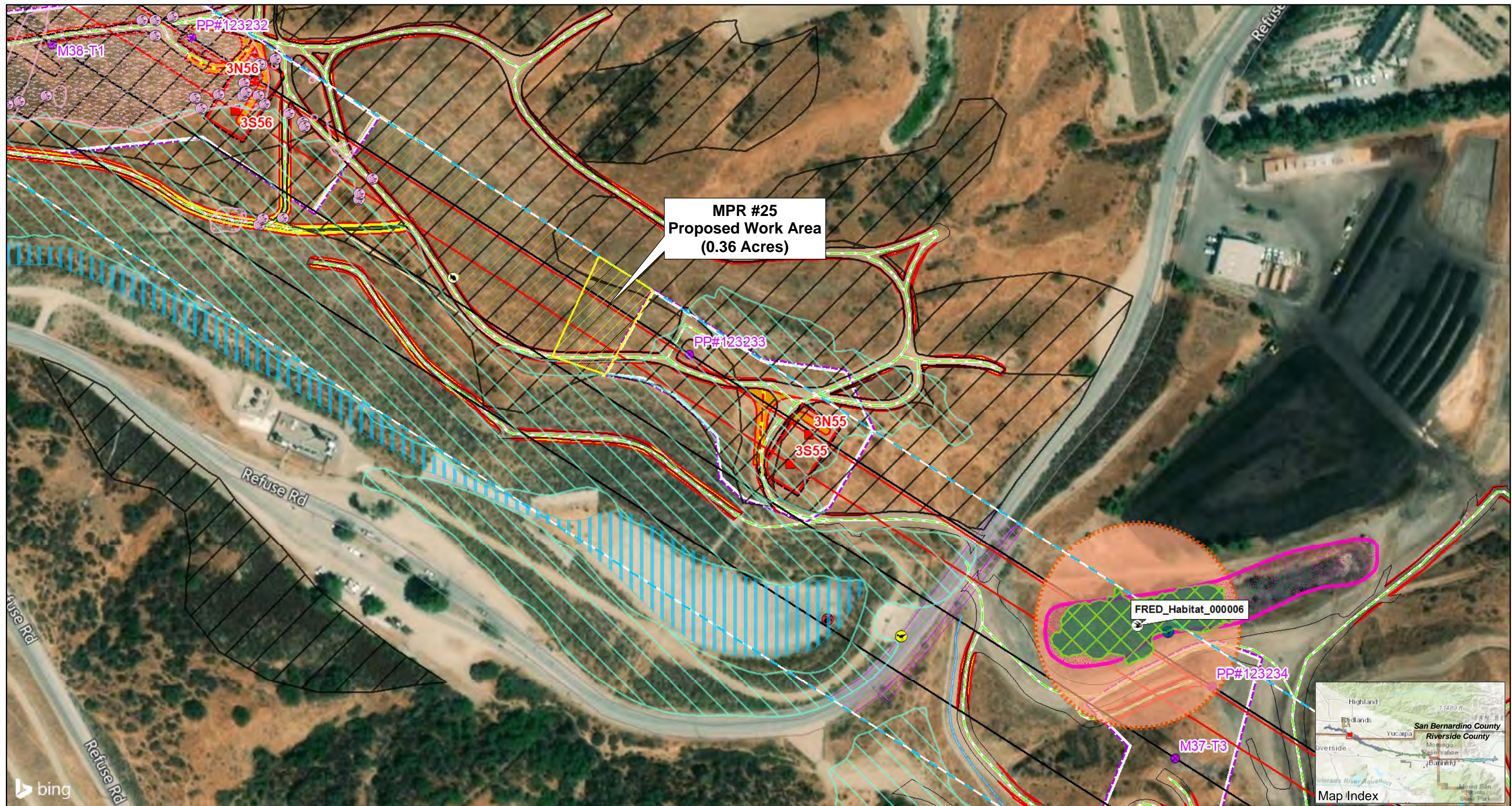
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/8/2019

Land Agent: CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/8/2019

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

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/8/2019

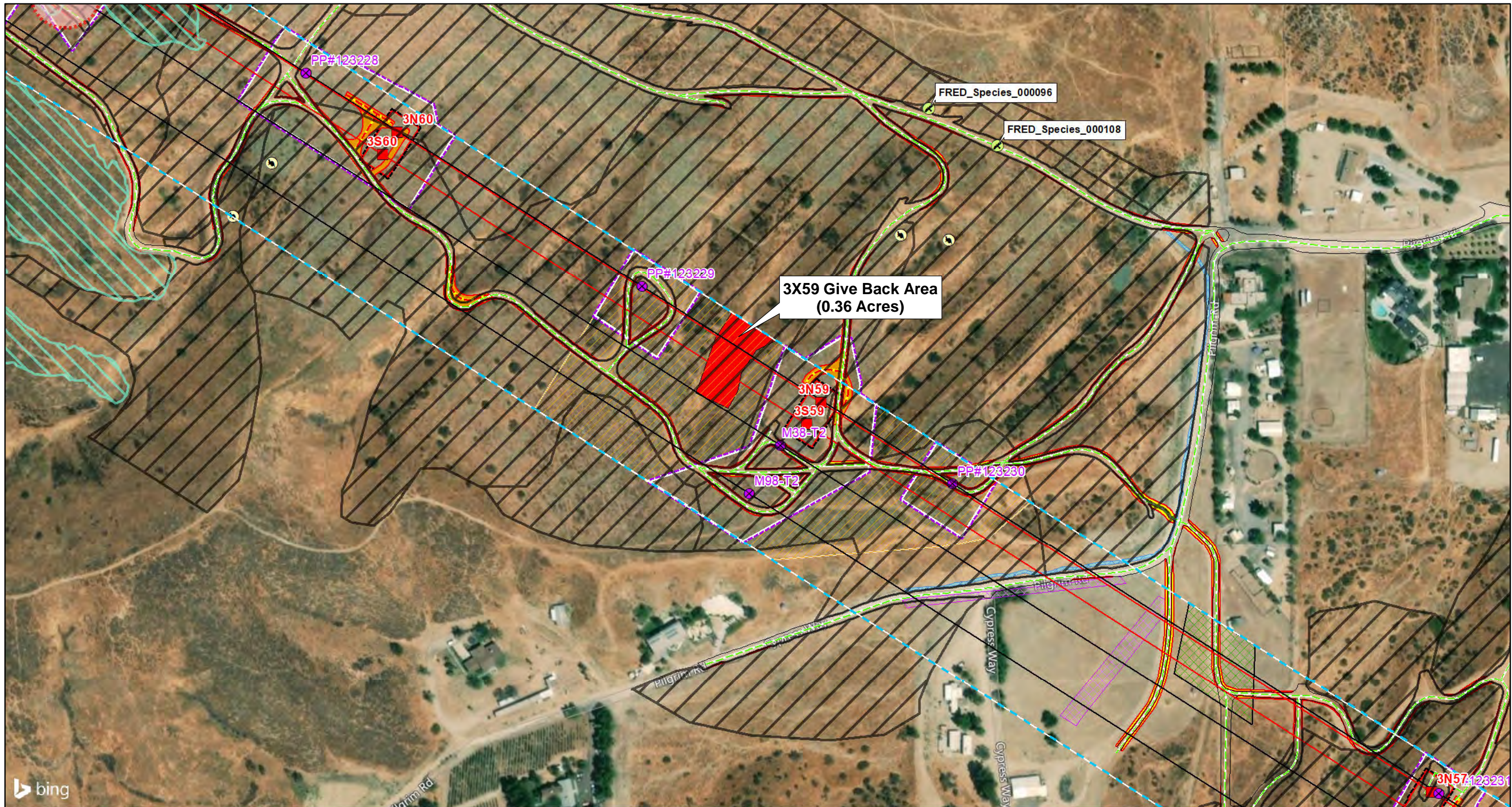


<p>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company</p> <p>LEGEND</p> <p>MPR #25 Work Area (0.36 Acres)</p> <p>Major Trans Structure</p> <p>Proposed</p> <p>Remove</p> <p>Major Trans Line</p> <p>Proposed</p>	<p>Existing</p> <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <p>New Access Road</p> <p>Existing Access Road</p> <p>Civil Access Road Areas</p> <p>Existing Road Edge</p>	<p>Designed Road Boundary</p> <p>Potential Road Widening</p> <p>Construction Areas</p> <p>Guard Pole</p> <p>O&M Tower Area</p> <p>Structure Work Area</p> <p>Wire Setup</p>	<p>Approx. Existing T/L Corridor</p> <p>Paniculate Tarplant</p> <p>Least Bell's Vireo</p> <p>San Diego Pocket Mouse</p> <p>Western Spadefoot</p> <p>Yellow Warbler</p>	<p>FRED Habitat Event</p> <p>Bat Habitat</p> <p>FRED Habitat Event Buffer</p> <p>Bat Habitat (165 ft)</p> <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <p>CDFW Jurisdiction</p> <p>RWQCB Jurisdiction</p>	<p>USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <p>Wetland Waters</p> <p>CDFW Jurisdiction</p> <p>USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat</p>	<p>Riparian Bird (LBVI/SWFL) Occupied Habitat</p> <p>Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat</p>	
	<p>0 50 100</p> <p>FEET</p> <p>SCE, Bing Imagery</p>	<p>Existing</p> <p>New Access Road</p> <p>Existing Access Road</p> <p>Existing Road Edge</p>	<p>Guard Pole</p> <p>O&M Tower Area</p> <p>Structure Work Area</p> <p>Wire Setup</p>	<p>Paniculate Tarplant</p> <p>Least Bell's Vireo</p> <p>San Diego Pocket Mouse</p> <p>Western Spadefoot</p> <p>Yellow Warbler</p>	<p>Bat Habitat</p> <p>Bat Habitat (165 ft)</p> <p>CDFW Jurisdiction</p> <p>RWQCB Jurisdiction</p>	<p>USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <p>CDFW Jurisdiction</p> <p>USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat</p>	<p>Riparian Bird (LBVI/SWFL) Occupied Habitat</p> <p>Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat</p>



FIGURE 1

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Proposed 3X55 Expansion
MPR #25



<p>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company</p>	<p>LEGEND</p>										<p>Map Index</p>
	<p>■ 3X59 Give Back Area (0.36 Acres)</p> <p>Major Trans Structure</p> <p>■ Proposed</p> <p>⊗ Remove</p>	<p>Major Trans Line</p> <p>— Proposed</p> <p>— Existing</p> <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <p>— New Access Road</p>	<p>--- Existing Access Road</p> <p>Civil Access Road Areas</p> <p>□ Existing Road Edge</p> <p>■ Designed Road Boundary</p>	<p>■ Potential Road Widening</p> <p>Construction Areas</p> <p>■ Construction Work Site</p> <p>■ Guard Pole</p> <p>■ O&M Tower Area</p>	<p>□ Structure Work Area</p> <p>□ Wire Setup</p> <p>□ Approx. Existing T/L Corridor</p> <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <p>□ CDFW Jurisdiction</p>	<p>□ USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <p>● San Diego Pocket Mouse</p> <p>● Ferruginous Hawk</p> <p>□ Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat</p>	<p>□ Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat</p> <p>FRED Active Nest Buffer</p> <p>● Red-tailed Hawk (75ft)</p>				

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FIGURE 2

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
3X59 Give Back Area
MPR #25