

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: June 4, 2021 Variance Request No.: 48

Date Submitted: May 28, 2021 Location: Southeast of 2N12 in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

**Features, Landowners, Associated Parcel Numbers:**

Previously Approved Work Area	Property Owner	Assessor's Parcel Number
SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-43	Leo R. Beus	0284-181-25

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Coastal Sage Scrub

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO  YES Specify: Mapped Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat

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

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): NTP #4 - Transmission

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING     ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS     CORRESPONDENCE     OTHER: MODIFICATION TO NTP #4

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-46 - (Figure 1, page 1)**

The grading limit, previously approved in MPR #43, will be expanded along the existing access road to accommodate the relocation of the previously approved retaining wall in SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-43 to reduce the permanent impacts of the wall from 0.006-acre to 0.003-acre and shift the orientation of the wall to better support the slope and prevent erosion, as shown in Figure 1, page 1.

The proposed design revisions will be contained within previously approved SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-43 supersite, located on private property situated entirely within the SCE transmission right-of-way (ROW) utility corridor in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

**Environmental Analysis**

No additional impacts to regulated trees, biological resources, cultural resources or jurisdictional waters are anticipated during construction in the previously approved work area (Figure 1, page 1).

**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 work area. The MPR 48 work area was included within the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments, protocol, and focused surveys).

The MPR 48 work area was also covered during the following project preconstruction survey:

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-47 - (Figure 1, page 1)	<a href="#">FRED Preconstruction Survey ID #000242</a>
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**Nesting Birds** – Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, including transmission structures, trees, shrubs, and the ground surface, are located throughout the ROW.

Preconstruction surveys, including surveys for nesting birds will be conducted during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31) prior to the initiation of construction in the work area. If active nests are identified, avoidance buffers will be established in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan. With implementation of mitigation measures, including appropriate avoidance buffers and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to nesting birds are anticipated.

#### **Listed Riparian Birds**

The work area and revised project components are not located within 500-feet of listed riparian bird habitat. With implementation of nesting bird surveys during nesting season and project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

#### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher**

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-48 is located within mapped USFWS-designated Critical Habitat Unit 10 for Coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) as shown on Figure 1, page 1. No new work areas are requested in CAGN habitat. All construction activities associated with this MPR will be contained within the previously approved work area.

Protocol surveys in this area occurred in March, April and May of 2018. No CAGN were observed within this area during 2018 protocol surveys. Furthermore, no CAGN were detected within CAGN habitat during the July 2019 survey. Due to a history of subsequently negative CAGN survey results in the area, no impacts to CAGN are anticipated and the Project area in San Bernardino County is considered unoccupied by CAGN at this time. If active CAGN nests or breeding territories are identified later within 500 feet of construction activities, avoidance buffers will be established and the nests will be monitored in accordance with the Wildlife Noise Monitoring Plan. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with implementation of preconstruction surveys and mitigation measures.

#### **Stephens' Kangaroo Rat**

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-48 is not located within the range of the species, therefore no impacts to SKR are anticipated.

#### **Special-status Small Mammals**

The proposed work location does not intersect mapped suitable habitat for special-status mammal habitat. Special-status small mammals such as the pallid San Diego pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, American badger, desert kit fox, and/or black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project area, however Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. If any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the small mammals avoidance and minimization plan.

#### **Special-status Bats**

No suitable bat roosting habitat or buffers occur within the proposed work location, therefore, no impacts to special-status bats are anticipated.

#### **Special-status Plants**

The proposed work area does not intersect special-status plant habitat and no observations of special-status plants have been observed in the proposed work locations over several years of surveys, therefore no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated. If special-status plants are later identified during clearance sweeps/survey/monitoring, they will be avoided to the extent feasible. Unavoidable impacts will be addressed in accordance with the Special-status Plant Salvage and Relocation Plan.

#### **Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl habitat is widespread in the project area. Burrowing owls only have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the proposed work area. No owl buffers currently intersect the work area. Active owl burrows observed during preconstruction surveys and during construction will be mitigated in accordance with the Burrowing Owl Management and Passive Relocation Plan. With implementation of mitigation measures, including appropriate avoidance buffers and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to burrowing owls are anticipated.

#### **Desert Tortoise**

The proposed work area is not located within the range of desert tortoise, therefore, no impacts to DETO are anticipated.

#### **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 proposed work area. Protocol aerial surveys conducted for the project in 2019 also showed no golden eagle nests within 2 miles of the work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Regulated Trees**

No tree trimming or tree removal is required for the proposed activities.

### **Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna**

No special-status terrestrial herpetofauna have been observed within the work area during project related surveys. However, a Red Diamond Rattlesnake (FRED Species Event 000586) was observed approximately 300 feet northwest of SWA-2-2X12-2-MPR-48 (Figure 1, page 1). With biological monitoring and implementation of project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Jurisdictional Waters**

Non-wetland feature 2057.1 intersects the easternmost McCarthy drain work area shown in Figure 1, page 1. Figure 2 illustrates that 168 square feet of temporary impacts and 12 square feet of permanent impacts are permitted by CDFW in the 1602 LSAA for this water feature. Figure 3 illustrates that 75 square feet of temporary impacts and 4 square feet of permanent impacts are permitted by USACE in the 404 NWP for this water feature. The location and size of this McCarthy drain have not changed since it was originally designed and permitted.

No new impacts to the jurisdictional water feature are associated with the MPR 48 grading limit and retaining wall expansion. Therefore, no additional non-permitted impacts to jurisdictional features are anticipated.

### **Cultural Resources**

The proposed work area and project components are located within the WOD APE and were 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.

### **Paleontological Resources**

The WOD Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) requires full-time, qualified paleontological construction monitoring in areas determined to have moderate (PFYC 3) to very high (PFYC 5) sensitivity. Sediments of unknown (PFYC U) sensitivity shall be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor on a part-time basis and geologic units with very low (PFYC 1) or low (PFYC 2) sensitivity may be spot checked to confirm paleontological sensitivity.

Per the PRMMP, the types of construction activities that require monitoring or spot-checking include:

- Grading
- Drilling (if drill bit is greater than two feet in diameter)
- Excavation for retaining walls
- Excavation of construction areas

Types of construction activities that will not require monitoring or spot-checking, regardless of paleontological sensitivity include:

- Small diameter drill holes (less than two feet in diameter)
- Pile driving
- Project activities that do not involve ground disturbance

Below is the associated PFYC class for the MPR 47 work area:

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-46 - (Figure 1, page 1)	Very High PFYC Class 5
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### **Resources:**

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

New Survey Report Attached: YES  NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: The MPR 47 work area was covered in FRED preconstruction Survey ID #000242.

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

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference:

The proposed MPR 47 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.)

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.)

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

Name: Jeff Miller Signature: JM Date: 5/27/2021

Environmental Inspector:  FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

Name: Lisa Amador Signature: Lisa Amador Date: 5/27/2021

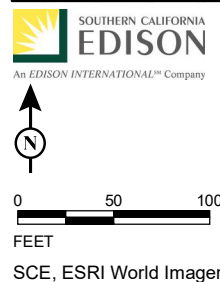
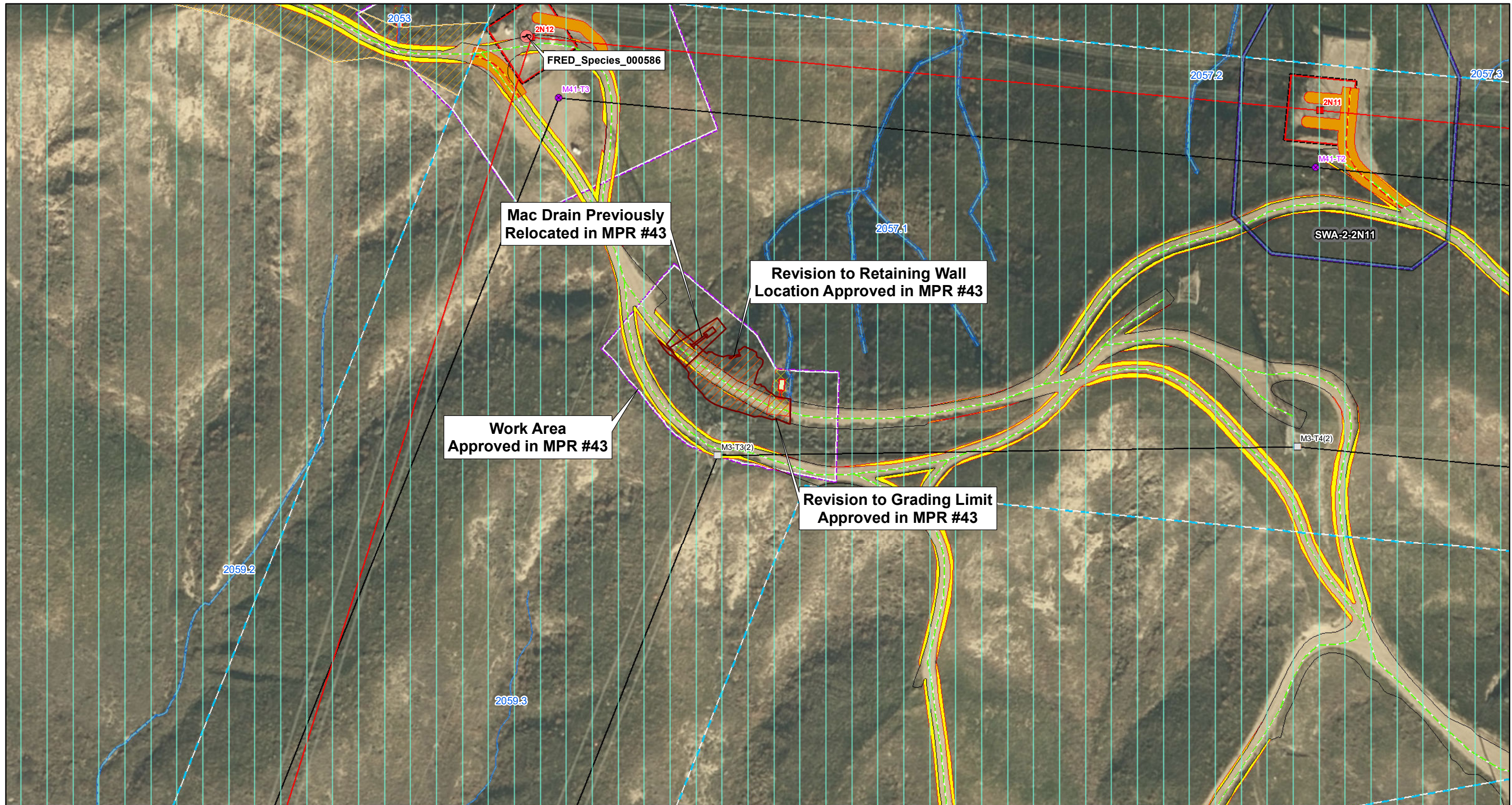
X  Land Agent:  CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS  NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature: JS Date: 5/27/2021

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

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: Sylvia Granados Date: 5/27/2021





**LEGEND**

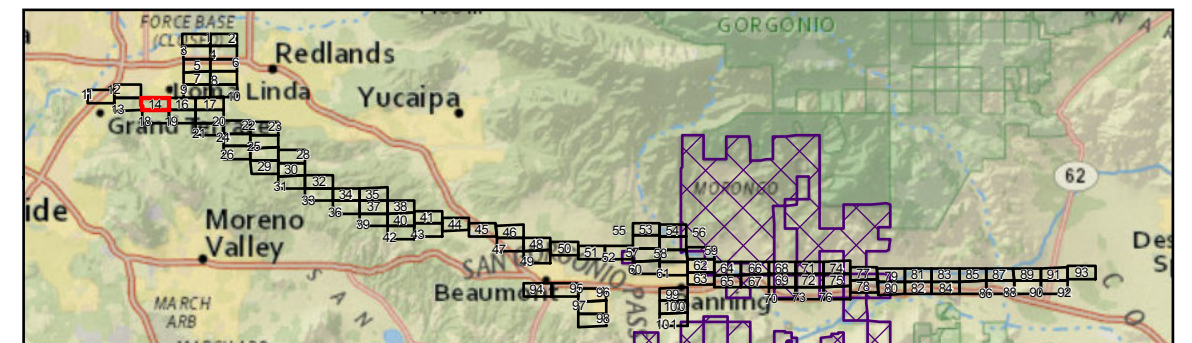
- |  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid red; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, red 2px, red 4px);"></span> MPR #48 Work Area</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid blue;"></span> Supersite Boundary</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid cyan;"></span> Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat</li> <li><b>FRED Species Event</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%;"></span> Red Diamond Rattlesnake</li> <li><b>Non-wetland Waters</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue;"></span> CDFW Jurisdiction</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue;"></span> USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</li> <li><b>Major Trans Structure</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></span> Proposed</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: purple;"></span> Remove</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: gray;"></span> Existing</li> <li><b>Major Trans Line</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 2px solid red;"></span> Proposed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Existing</li> <li><b>Civil Access Roads Lines</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 2px solid orange;"></span> New Access Road</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 2px dashed green;"></span> Existing Access Road</li> <li><b>Civil Access Road Areas</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Existing Road Edge</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid orange;"></span> Designed Road Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow;"></span> Potential Road Widening</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px dashed blue;"></span> Existing ROW</li> <li><b>Construction Areas</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid red;"></span> O&amp;M Tower Area</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px dashed purple;"></span> Structure Work Area</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px dashed orange;"></span> Wire Setup</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Proposed Civil Drainage Area</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightgreen;"></span> Permanent, New, Gabion</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px dashed blue;"></span> Permanent, New, Mac Drain Single</li> <li><b>Civil Disturbance Area</b></li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px dashed yellow;"></span> Temporary, Civil Work Limits</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|---|--|



FIGURE 1  
Page 1

Southern California Edison  
West of Devers Upgrade Project  
Work Areas  
MPR #48





Source: ICF; SCE; ESRI 2017; USDA NAIP Image 2016;  
 Revised by ICF: 12/15/2017



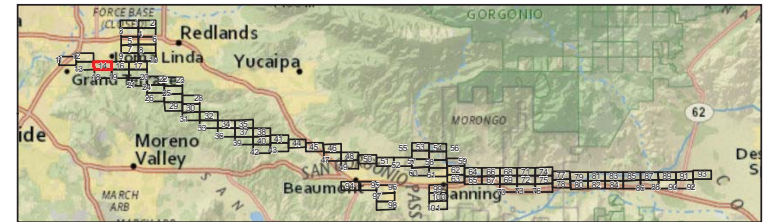
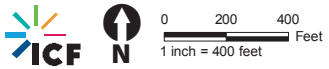
**Figure 3 Sheet 14**  
**Southern California Edison - West of Devers Upgrade Project**  
**CDFW Jurisdictional Waters Impact Maps**





- Legend**
- Delineation Area
  - Temporary Impacts
  - Permanent Impacts
  - Wetland Aquatic Resources
  - Wetlands (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)
  - Nonwetland Aquatic Resources
  - Streambed (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)

Source: ICF, SCE, ESRI 2017; USDA NAIP Image 2016;  
 Revised by ICF: 10/20/2017



**Figure 3 Sheet 14**  
**Southern California Edison - West of Devers Upgrade Project**  
**USACE/SWRCB Jurisdictional Waters Impact Maps**