August 3, 2005

GARY DUDLEY
Corporate Environment, Health and Safety, Natural and Cultural Resources

SUBJECT: Request for Reconnaissance-level Biological Review
Kimball Substation, San Bernardino and Riverside County

Southern California Edison (SCE) is proposing to construct a new 66/12kV Substation (Kimball Substation) to meet projected electrical demand requirements and improve reliability in the eastern area of Riverside County and the southern portions of the cities of Chino and Ontario. Three possible site locations (Site 5C-Preferred Site 3, and 2B) have been pre-selected for the proposed Kimball Substation. The proposed project area consists of disturbed, poor quality habitat.

After conducting a search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) for the Corona North USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle it was determined that there are state and/or federally listed animal and plant species and other sensitive species which have the potential to occur within the Kimball Substation project area (Table 1.)

On July 28, 2005, biologist Maija Benjamins visited the project area and surveyed the sites for potential biological sensitivities and David Faulkner, a permitted Entomologist, conducted a site assessment for Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly (DSF) habitat suitability on July 22, 2005. An examination of the onsite habitat, relative to the habitat requirements for each of the species in Table 1, indicates that the listed and sensitive species in the table do not have the potential to occur at the project site. No sensitive biological resources were identified. The results and recommendations of the biological surveys follow for each of the proposed site locations.

Site 5C – Preferred Kimball Substation Site Location

Preferred site 5C is located east of the Chino Airport at the northeast corner of Kimball Avenue and Walker Avenue. The site information for 5C was reviewed and a reconnaissance level survey was conducted by biologist Maija Benjamins and permitted Entomologist David Faulkner to determine whether habitats capable of supporting listed or otherwise sensitive species are present at the site.

Upon surveying the area, it was determined that the surrounding habitat has been severely degraded by agriculture and development making it unsuitable for sensitive species. The specific project location consists of partly abandoned Walnut trees surrounded by non-native vegetation and a junk yard filled with cars, farm equipment, and miscellaneous other materials. The disturbed, non-native or early successional vegetation present consists of black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*), rattlesnake weed (*Euphorbia albomarginata*), Russian thistle (*Salsola*

tragus), goosefoot (*Chenopodium spp.*), crystalline iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), asters (Asteraceae), and non-native grasses.

Preferred Site 5C contains Delhi Sands, but no other habitat indicators for the DSF. Soils are compacted and covered with senesced vegetation and the necessary obligate plant species are not present [i.e. telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), croton (*Croton californicus*), or California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)]. Site 5C is separated from currently known DSF sites by at least 5 miles and does not contain the obligate ant genus *Pogonomymrex.* No protocol surveys for this insect are recommended for this property.

The reconnaissance level survey found no sensitive biological species at Site 5C

Site 2B – Alternative Kimball Substation Site Location

Preferred site 2B is located near the southeast corner of Kimball Avenue and Hellman Avenue. The site information for 2B was reviewed and a reconnaissance level survey was conducted by biologist Maija Benjamins and permitted Entomologist David Faulkner to determine whether habitats capable of supporting listed or otherwise sensitive species are present at the site.

Upon surveying the area, it was determined that the surrounding habitat is heavily impacted agricultural land making it unsuitable for sensitive species. The area has been recently plowed and contains sporadically dispersed non-native plants.

The only available DSF habitat for Site 2B is located within the sandy soils of the agricultural land and an artificial berm along the dirt road and the presence of *Pogonomyrex* colonies. This site is poor DSF habitat and no protocol surveys are recommended.

The reconnaissance level survey found no sensitive biological species at Site 2B.

~~**Site 3 – Alternative Kimball Substation Site Location**~~

Preferred site 3 is located near the northwest corner of Kimball Avenue and Hellman Avenue. The information for site 3 was reviewed and a reconnaissance level survey was conducted by biologist Maija Benjamins and permitted Entomologist David Faulkner to determine whether habitats capable of supporting listed or otherwise sensitive species are present at the site.

Upon surveying the area, it was determined that the surrounding habitat is heavily impacted agricultural and dairy land. A settling pond for dairy occupies most of the site. This site could not be thoroughly surveyed due to a lack of property owner permission to enter the area.

Site 3 is heavily disturbed and would not be considered as possible DSF habitat. This site is poor DSF habitat and no protocol surveys are recommended.

The limited reconnaissance level survey found no sensitive biological species at Site 3. A more thorough biological survey of this site must be conducted to ensure no sensitive species or riparian habitat/wetland indicator species are present.

If you have any questions regarding biological resources please contact Maija Benjamins at PAX 23936.

Maija Benjamins
Biologist
Southern California Edison
Environment, Health and Safety
(626) 302-3936
PAX 23936

cc: Daniel C. Pearson
Thomas T. Taylor

Table 1: Sensitive Species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Kimball Substation project, CA (Corona North Quad).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Status	General Habitat	Micro Habitat
Dipodomys stephensi	Stephens' Kangaroo Rat	FE	ST		Primarily annual and perennial grasslands, but also occurs in coastal scrub and sagebrush with sparse canopy cover.	Prefers buckwheat, chamise, brome grass and filaree. Will burrow into firm soil.
Eumops perotis californicus	Western (California) Mastiff Bat	None	SC		Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc.	Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.
Agelaius tricolor	Tri-colored Blackbird	None	SC		Highly colonial species, most numerous in the Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California.	Requires open water, protective nesting substrate and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow	None	SC		Resident in southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral.	Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.
Amphispiza belli belli	Bell's Sage Sparrow	None	SC		Nests in hard chaparral dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise. Found in coastal sage scrub in south of range.	Nest located on the ground beneath a shrub or in a shrub 6-18 inches above ground. Territories about 50 yards apart.
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing Owl	None	SC		Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.	Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, especially California ground squirrel.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	None	SE		Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.
Dendroica petechia brewsteri	Yellow Warbler	None	SC		Riparian plant associations. Prefers willows, cottonwoods, aspens, sycamores, and alders for nesting and foraging.	Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests.
~~*Empidonax traillii extimus*~~	~~Southwestern Willow Flycatcher~~	~~FE~~	~~SE~~		~~Inhabits extensive thickets of low, dense willows on edge of wet meadows, ponds, or backwaters; 2000-8000 ft elev.~~	~~Requires dense willow thickets for nesting/roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts/hunting perches.~~
Icteria virens	Yellow-breasted Chat	None	SC		Summer resident, inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses.	Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forage and nest within 10 ft of the ground.
Polioptila californica	Coastal California Gnatcatcher	FT	SC		Obligate permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2,500 ft in southern California.	Low, coastal sage scrub, in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's Vireo	FE	SE		Summer resident of southern California. Inhabits low riparian growth in vicinity of water or in dry	Nests placed along margins of bushes or twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow,

					river bottoms, below 2,000 ft.	*Baccharis*, mesquite.
Aspidoscelis hyperythrus	Orange-throated Whiptail	None	SC		Inhabits low elevation coastal scrub, chaparral and valley-foothill hardwood habitats.	Prefers washes and other sandy areas with patches of brush and rocks. Perennial plants necessary for its major food-termites.
Crotalus ruber ruber	Northern Red-diamond Rattlesnake	None	SC		Chaparral, woodland, grassland, and desert areas from coastal San Diego County to the eastern slopes of the mountains.	Occurs in rocky areas and dense vegetation. .Needs rodent burrows, cracks in rocks or surface cover objects.
Gila orcutti	Arroyo Chub	None	SC		Los Angeles basin in southern coastal streams.	Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feed heavily on aquatic vegetation and associated invertebrates.
Catostomus santaanae	Santa Ana Sucker	FT	SC		Endemic to Los Angeles basin south coastal streams.	Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water and algae.
Abronia villosa var. aurita	Chaparral Sand-verbena	None	None	1B	Chaparral, coastal scrub.	Sandy areas. 80-1600m.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's Spineflower	None	None	3	Coastal scrub, chaparral.	Dry slopes and flats; sometimes at interface of two vegetation types, such as chaparral and oak woodland; dry, sandy soils. 40-1705m.
Senecio aphanactis	Rayless Ragwort	None	None	2	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub.	Drying alkaline flats. 20-575m.
Lasiurus xanthinus	Western yellow bat	None	None	2	Inhabits low-to-mid elevation riparian communities with broad-leaved deciduous trees, specifically the fan palm oases. Also found in urban situations with palm trees.	Solitary roosts in dense clusters of dead palm fronds.

Status Codes:

Federal
FT = Federal Threatened
FE = Federal Endangered
FPE = Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT = Federal Proposed Threatened
FSC = Federal Species of Concern

State
ST = State Threatened
SE = State Endangered
SR = State Rare

CNPS
1A = Presumed Extinct in California
1B = Rare, Threatened or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2 = Rare, Threatened or Endangered in California but more common elsewhere
3 = More information needed (usually taxonomically problematic)
4 = "Watch list." Limited distribution

Figure 1. Aerial map showing the areas surveyed for the Preferred and Alternative proposed Kimball Substation site. Site 5C is the preferred substation site, while Sites 2B and 3 are both Alternative sites.

23 July 2005

Gary L. Dudley, Project Coordinator
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770

RE: Site Assessment for Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Habitat, SCE Kimball Substation Project, 2005

Dear Mr. Dudley:

The site for the proposed Southern California Edison (SCE) 66/12 kV substation (Kimball Substation) was assessed for Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly (DSF) habitat suitability on 22 July 2005. The preferred site is located east of the Chino Airport at the northeast corner of Kimball Avenue and Walker Avenue on property that is currently occupied by partly abandoned Walnut trees surrounded by non-native vegetation, and a junk yard filled will cars, farm equipment, and miscellaneous other materials. The north and west boundaries of the property are bordered by well-established tamarisk trees. Most of the vegetation west of the fence separating the junk yard from the rest of the site is covered in introduced grasses, mustards, composites, tree tobacco, spurge (euphorbia), garden "escapes," and other weedy non-native plants. The ground surface is covered in dead grasses and tamarisk "leaves." More importantly in relationship to habitat indicators for the DSF, is the total lack of telegraph weed, croton, or buckwheat that are present to some extent in other areas of San Bernardino County that support this insect. Even the widespread ant genus *Pogonomyrmex* (harvester ants), common in much of the region, appears to be absent from this site, although it might still maintain a foothold along the periphery. There are limited open soils and some compression from vehicle traffic. The presence of sandy soils would be the only habitat factor for the DSF.

The junk yard section of the property, also supports abundant weedy vegetation, especially grasses, with the only open sandy soils a result of recent vehicle activity. Soils are compacted in much of the site and salt grass (*Distichlis*) is common. No indicator plants for DSF are present in this heavily impacted area.

The entire site is separated from currently known DSF habitats by at least 5 miles, and is surrounded by active dairies, the Chino Airport, and a large development to the south that is under construction. In the past, this area was under intense agriculture.

Two alternative sites for the proposed substation, designated 2B and Site 3, were also visited. Alternate Site 3 is located near the northwest corner of Kimball Avenue and

Hellman Avenue and consists primarily of a settling pond for the dairy that occupies most of the property. This heavily disturbed site would not be considered as possible DSF habitat. The 2B Site is near the southeast corner of Kimball Avenue and Hellman Avenue, south of a dairy in heavily impacted agricultural land. The site straddles a dirt road and the only available DSF habitat would be the sandy soils in the current agricultural land and an artificial berm along the dirt road, and the presence of *Pogonomyrmex* colonies. Both sites are poor DSF habitats.

The possibility that any of these three sites currently supports populations of the federally listed DSF is very low (Preferred Site) to impossible (Alternative Site 3). The Preferred Site contains sandy soils as the only habitat factor presence that is necessary for this insect. Given the current condition of the Preferred Site and its isolation from existing DSF populations, I would not expect this site to support any colony of the DSF. No protocol surveys for this insect would be recommended for this property.

David K. Faulkner
Entomologist
USFWS Permit #TE-838743-3

GARY DUDLEY May 23, 2006
Corporate Environment, Health and Safety

SUBJECT: Request for Reconnaissance-level Biological Review
Existing Chino-Corona-Pedley 66kV Subtransmission Line Upgrade
Kimball Substation Project in Chino, San Bernardino County

Southern California Edison (SCE) is proposing to upgrade an existing seven mile 66kV subtransmission line. The existing Chino-Corona-Pedley 66kV subtransmission line includes a number of poles projected to be replaced along the following segments (Figure 1): Chino substation to Magnolia at Kimball Avenue (10,500 feet), Magnolia at Kimball Avenue to Euclid Avenue (6,500 feet), Bickmore Avenue to Bon View Avenue (6,400 feet), Bon View Avenue to Walker Street (4,300 feet), Walker Street to Hellman Avenue (2,200 feet), and Pine Avenue to Hereford Drive (2,350 feet). Each of the structures is located between one and four feet from a pre-existing road; therefore minimal ground disturbance is anticipated by the construction activities.

On May 23, 2006, biologist Janet Baas visited the project area and surveyed the site for potential biological sensitivities. The surrounding area consists predominately of bare ground and disturbed, non-native ruderal vegetation. No native vegetative communities were found in this area. The segment from Chino Substation to Kimball Avenue along Magnolia is enclosed by a gate; otherwise all of these poles are easily accessible. No sensitive biological resources were identified. The results and recommendations of the biological surveys follow for each of the proposed site locations.

Biological Resources

After conducting a search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) for the Prado Dam USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, and a review of current published literature pertaining to listed species, it was determined that state and/or federally listed plant and animal species and other sensitive species have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project location (Table 1). An examination of the onsite habitat, relative to the habitat requirements for each of the species in Table 1, indicated that only one of the listed and/or sensitive species in the table, the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), has any potential of occurring within any of the segments in the project site.

The site information was reviewed and a site visit was conducted by biologist Janet Baas to determine whether habitats capable of supporting listed or otherwise sensitive species are present at the site. The existing Chino-Corona-Pedley 66kV subtransmission line runs directly south and east out of Chino Substation along graded road shoulder. Upon surveying the area, the majority of the project area was found to be along existing paved roads surrounded by residential communities and disturbed agricultural areas making it unsuitable habitat for sensitive species. The specific project location consists mainly of ruderal, overgrown, disturbed and non-native vegetation comprised of Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and non-native grasses (*Bromus*

spp.). The surrounding areas consist of recently disturbed soils and landscaped residential properties.

The only segment with potential for sensitive and/or listed biological resources was the segment from Chino Substation to Kimball Avenue along Magnolia. At the time of the survey the vegetative cover along this segment was nearly 100%, consisting of non-native grasses and mustards. However, during times of the year when the vegetation has senesced creating a more open environment, there is a potential for this site to provide suitable foraging habitat for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*). Burrowing owls are a California Species of Special Concern and are known to occur in the vicinity of the Chino Substation. Although no burrowing owls were sited during the reconnaissance level field visit, surveys for burrowing owls should be conducted prior to construction along this segment, especially during the nesting season (about mid-April to June). No other sensitive species were found, or are expected to be found, along any other portions of the proposed project area.

Additionally, pole structures can provide suitable nest sites for raptors and other avian species. All but three species of birds in California are protected by state (California Fish and Game Codes 3503 and 3511) and federal laws (Migratory Bird Treaty Act). Precautions should be taken to avoid negative impacts to protected birds and active nests (i.e. nests with young or eggs). Structures should be visually inspected for existing nests prior to construction. If a nest is present on the pole, construction must be postponed until after the young have fledged from the nest, or California Department of Fish and Game should be notified and consulted before any project-related activities begin. If no nests are found, construction activities can proceed.

The reconnaissance level survey found no sensitive biological species within any of the other segments proposed for the upgrade of the existing Chino-Corona-Pedley 66kV subtransmission line.

Johanna Page for Janet Baas
Biologist
Southern California Edison
Environment, Health and Safety

cc: Jill Fariss

Table 1. List of sensitive species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the existing Chino-Corona-Pedley 66kV Subtransmission Line upgrade portion of the Kimball Substation project in Chino, CA (Prado Dam USGS Quads).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Status	General Habitat	Micro Habitat
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow	None	SC		Resident in southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral.	Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	None	SC		Rolling foothill or coast-range terrain, where open grassland turns to scattered oaks, sycamores, or large digger pines.	Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also large trees in open areas.
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl	None	SC		Found in riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods; also, belts of live oak paralleling stream courses.	Require adjacent open land productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding.
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing Owl	None	SC		Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.	Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, especially California ground squirrel.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	None	SE		Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.
Empidonax traillii	Willow Flycatcher	FSS	SE		Inhabits extensive thickets of low, dense willows on edge of wet meadows, ponds, or backwaters; 2000-8000 ft elev.	Requires dense willow thickets for nesting/roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts/hunting perches.
Icteria virens	Yellow-breasted Chat	None	SC		Summer resident, inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses.	Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forage and nest within 10 ft of the ground.
Polioptila californica californica	Coastal California Gnatcatcher	FT	SC		Obligate permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2,500 ft in southern California.	Low, coastal sage scrub, in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's Vireo	FE	SE		Summer resident of southern California. Inhabits low riparian growth in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms, below 2,000 ft.	Nests placed along margins of bushes or twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, *Baccharis*, mesquite.
Clemmys marmorata pallida	Southwestern Pond Turtle	FSS	SC		Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; below	Requires basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetated mats, or open mud

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Status	General Habitat	Micro Habitat
					6,000 ft.	banks. Need suitable nesting sites.
Aspidoscelis hyperythrus	Orange-throated Whiptail	None	SC		Inhabits low elevation coastal scrub, chaparral and valley-foothill hardwood habitats.	Prefers washes and other sandy areas with patches of brush and rocks. Perennial plants necessary for its major food-termites.
Catostomus santaanae	Santa Ana Sucker	FT	SC		Endemic to Los Angeles basin south coastal streams.	Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water and algae.
Abronia villosa var. aurita	Chaparral Sand-verbena	None	None	1B	Chaparral, coastal scrub.	Sandy areas. 80-1600m.
Atriplex coulteri	Coulter's Saltbush	None	None	1B	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland.	Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. 10-440m.
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius*	Intermediate Mariposa Lily	None	None	1B	Coastal scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland.	Dry, rocky open slopes and rock outcrops. 120-850m.
Dudleya multicaulis	Many-stemmed Dudleya	None	None	1B	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Endemic to southern California.	In heavy, often clay-type soils or grassy slopes. 0-790m.
Eriastrum densifolium ssp. *sanctorum*	Santa Ana River Woollystar	FE	SE	1B	Coastal scrub, chaparral. Formerly known from Orange and San Bernardino Counties, now known from one extended population.	In sandy soils on river floodplains or terraced fluvial deposits. 150-610m.
Sidalcea neomexicana	Salt Spring Checkerbloom	None	None	2	Alkali playas, brackish marshes, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub.	Alkali springs and marshes. 0-1500m.

* indicates state and/or federally listed species.

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CHINO SUB.

ARCHIBALD SUB.

CIMGEN

Central

MAGNOLIA

Euclid

Edison Ave.

Chino-
Corona-
Pedley 66kV
(Existing)

Archibald

Walker St.

KIMBALL SUB.

Proposed Chino-Kimball 66kV Line

Kimball Ave.

El Prado Rd.

Chino Leg: Archibald-
Chino-Corona 66kV
(Existing)

BON VIEW

Kimball

Underground 66kV
0.4 mi. into the Sub.

HELLMAN

Chino-
Corona-
Pedley 66kV
(Existing)

BICKMORE

PINE

Schliesmann

To
Pedley
Sub.

New Line
Section

Hereford

HELLMAN

Proposed Chino-Cimgen-Kimball 66kV Line

Archibald-Chino-Corona
66kV (Existing)

Chino-
Corona Rd.

Helman

To
Corona
Sub. V