

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program

## **Public Notice of Report of Water Discharge for Waste Discharge Requirements**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB jurisdictions.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Southern California Edison

**Applicant Contact:** James R. Greenwood, Southern California Edison

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**Project Name:** Southern California Edison Company Segments 4,5, and 10 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project.

**Date of Application:** February 26, 2010

### **Public Notice for Waste Discharge Requirements Southern California Edison Company Segments 4, 5, and 10 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Affected Counties: Kern, Los Angeles**

On February 26, 2009, the State Water Board received a Report of Waste Discharge from the Southern California Edison Company (SCE or applicant), requesting Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for activities related to the SCE Segments 4,5, and 10 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). The overall purpose of the SCE Segments 4,5, and 10 of the TRTP (Project) is to provide new and upgraded transmission infrastructure to provide the electrical facilities necessary to reliably interconnect and integrate new wind generation in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area. This will enable the Discharger and other California utilities to comply with California Renewable Portfolio Standard goals of 20 percent renewable energy by year 2010.

The Project incorporates approximately 50 miles of 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, 4 miles of 220-kV transmission line, and 328 transmission structures. All of these transmission lines and structures, plus proposed access roads and any other supporting equipment, are part of the Project.

The Project will impact 67 features that are waters of the State. All but 6 of the impacted features are isolated waters of the State (non-federal waters). No wetland areas are expected to be impacted by Project activities. The Project will result in 0.18 acre of permanent and 0.41 acre of temporary impacts to waters of the State. Of the 0.41 acre of waters of the State, 0.07 acre are waters of the U.S. Temporary impacts due to vegetation trimming and/or grading within existing access roads are excluded from compensatory mitigation totals. A detailed breakout of temporary and permanent impacts by feature is provided in Tables 3a and 3b below.

Projected permanent and temporary effects to Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and Waters of the State, are summarized in Table 1, below.

A combination of avoidance, minimization, restoration, enhancement, and compensatory mitigation measures are proposed to offset potential impacts to waters of the State, as described in the Report of Waste Discharge, supplemental materials, and the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). All feasible and practical measures will be undertaken to avoid or minimize impacts to waters of the state during project activities.

A map of the project area may be viewed at:

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/enviro/tehachapi\\_renewables/TRTP\\_MapFiguresSeriesVolume/MapVolume/1StripMaps/Figure%202.2-1a\\_low.pdf](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/enviro/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP_MapFiguresSeriesVolume/MapVolume/1StripMaps/Figure%202.2-1a_low.pdf)

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), acting as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) Lead Agency, certified the Final EIR for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project on October 1, 2009 (SCH No. 2007081156). A Notice of Determination was filed with the State Clearinghouse on December 21, 2009 by the CPUC. The Final EIR may be viewed at:

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/enviro/tehachapi\\_renewables/TRTP.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/enviro/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP.htm)

#### **Status of other natural resource documents and permits:**

Concurrent with an application for WDRs, the Discharger applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The CDFG is expected to issue the SAA in November 2010.

On December 21, 2009, the Discharger also initiated consultation with the CDFG under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act to address state listed species. The CDFG is expected to issue an Incidental Take permit in November 2010.

The U.S. Forest Service initiated federal Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the TRTP to address federally listed species on December 21, 2009. The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for the TRTP on July 30, 2010, which also covers the Project.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. The State Water Board will hold a public hearing/adoption meeting to accept oral testimony on the draft WDRs. After hearing all testimony, the State Water Board plans to take action on the draft WDRs.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Solecki at (916) 341-5483 or [rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rsolecki@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Date Posted: November 15, 2010**

**State Water Resources**

**Control Board Staff Contact:**

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**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**