

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

**Public Notice  
of Application for Water Quality Certification**

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:** Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segments 7 and 8

**Date of Application:** February 3, 2010

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Southern California Edison  
Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segments 7 and 8  
Affected Counties: Los Angeles, San Bernadino**

On February 3, 2009, the State Water Board received an application from the Southern California Edison Company (SCE or applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities related to the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP): Segments 7 and 8. The TRTP Segments 7 and 8 project alignment is a project component, or "Work Package", of the proposed TRTP. The project alignment incorporates approximately 49 miles of 500kV transmission line and seven miles of 220kV transmission line. In addition, 311 new transmission structures, 205 lightweight steel poles, and six tubular steel riser poles would be erected. Some of these structures are simple replacements for existing structures. The project alignment extends from the southern boundary of the Angeles National Forest, continues forward to the Rio Hondo Substation, then continues to the southwest across the San Gabriel Valley to the Mesa Substation (Segment 7). From the Mesa Substation, the project alignment extends eastward to the Chino Substation, and then continues eastward before ending at the Mira Loma Substation (Segment 8). In addition, various 220 kV transmission lines would be removed and existing substations would be upgraded to accommodate new transmission lines and systems. To support the installation of these transmission lines, the following preparation will be required: creation of wire setup sites (for

pulling, splicing, and stringing wire), creation of construction work areas around each tower structure, constructing new access roads, and modifications to existing access roads where they cross jurisdictional features (referred to as drainage modifications). Wire setup sites require an average area of 300 feet by the width of the ROW to stretch the transmission line and connect it to towers. Segments 7 and 8 would include approximately 49 wire setup sites. Existing access roads may need to be graded or may require vegetation trimming to accommodate construction vehicles.

Proposed activities involve work within potential Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and Waters of the State. 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 wetlands, and waters of the U.S. and the State, as described in the EIR/S and supplements. Mitigation details are in the EIR/S and supplements. 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/MapVolumeTOC.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/enviro/tehachapi_renewables/TRTP_MapFiguresSeriesVolume/MapVolumeTOC.htm)

The California Public Utilities Commission, acting as lead agency under CEQA, and the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), acting as the lead agency under NEPA, approved the Final Environmental Impact Report/ Statement (Final EIR/S) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project on December 17, 2009. The Final EIR/S can be viewed at:

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

Feature	Permanent Impacts (expressed as ac.)	Permanent Impacts (expressed as lin. ft.)	Temporary Impacts (expressed as ac.)	Temporary Impacts (expressed as lin. ft.)
Wetlands	0.077	178	0.16	262
Streambed	.0152	120	0.3547	3417
Lake / Reservoir	0	0	0	0
Ocean/estuary/bay	0	0	0	0
Riparian	0.0142	114	0.0148	136
Isolated Waters	0	0	0	0
Total Impacts	0.091 ac.	412 lin. ft.	0.529 ac.	3815 lin. ft.

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

As proposed in the EIR/S, the following plans will be prepared: a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), Habitat Restoration and Vegetation Plan, and Forest Service Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) Treatment Plan.

SCE submitted a pre-construction notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on January 28, 2010, for coverage under the Corps' Section 404 Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit 12.

The Forest Service initiated Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the entire TRTP project on December 21, 2009. The Biological Opinion is pending.

An application was submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for a Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Stream and Lakebed Alteration Agreement on January 28, 2010. SCE initiated consultation with CDFG for a 2081(b) Incidental Take Permit under the California Endangered Species Act on December 21, 2009. The Alteration Agreement and Incidental Take Permit are pending.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. In addition, 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. 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: April 20, 2010**

**State Water Resources**

**Control Board Staff Contact:**

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Division of Water Quality

State Water Resources Control Board

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