

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 (Regional Water Boards) 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 Regional Water Board 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: Hazem Gabr, Southern California Edison

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Project Name: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segments 7 and 8, Amendment 2

Date of Application: October 12, 2011, with supplemental information received in November 2011.

**Public Notice of Application for Renewal of Water Quality Certification
Southern California Edison**

Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project: Segments 7 and 8

Affected Counties: Los Angeles, San Bernadino

On December 24, 2010, the State Water Board issued a Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) for the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) Segments 7 and 8 (Project). On October 12, 2011, the State Water Board received an application from SCE, requesting an amendment to the Certification for the Project. As a result, the State Water Board issued a public notice on February 10, 2012, regarding SCE's request for an amended Certification. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently determined that it will enroll the amended Project under the new Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12. The Corps existing NWPs will expire on March 18, 2012. On March 19, 2012, the Corps will reissue forty-eight of forty-nine existing NWPs and all of the general conditions and definitions, with some additions and modifications. As a result of these events, the State Water Board will issue a new Certification for TRTP Segments 7 & 8, instead of an amendment to the existing Certification.

SCE's request for Certification of a Project amendment was triggered by final engineering and construction contractor input regarding construction methods and feasibility due to steep terrain. The changes primarily involve expanded temporary work areas for construction access (including pull sites and the installation and maintenance of temporary BMPs) and/or revised permanent grading limits based on detailed surveys of site conditions as necessary to ensure site stabilization. At Structures M24-T1 and M57-T1, previously permitted impacts to feature 8-33-S-200 were modified leading to a net decrease in permanent impacts and an increase in temporary impacts. In addition, a new road design was required to access Structures M49-T1 and M2-T4A due to property acquisition issues. The road design includes several modifications to stabilize the road and prevent erosion, including installation of rip-rap, waterbars, a concrete v-ditch and terrace drain, McCarthy drains and energy dissipaters, and retaining walls. One additional instance of maintenance grading on an existing access road was also included in the amendment request. Impacts on jurisdictional waters for just the amended areas include an additional 0.004 acre and 162 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.04 acre and 956 linear feet of temporary impacts. These impacts will require an additional 0.04 acre of mitigation to be implemented at the Lemon Creek Restoration Site. In addition to the amendment impacts mentioned above, total project impacts include 0.10 acre and 758 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.99 acres and 4,978 linear feet of temporary impact on jurisdictional waters. All impacts to jurisdictional waters requiring mitigation will be mitigated at the Lemon Creek Restoration Site. For more information on the project see the original Public Notice for the project below, which was issued on April 20, 2010.

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

Date Posted: March 14, 2012

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.