Amended Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification for Southern California Edison Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program
Date Posted: October 2, 2020

Affected County: San Bernardino

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 Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State 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. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 30-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter (October 2, 2020) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (November 1, 2020).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:
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State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

Project Name: Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project

(Reg. Meas. ID: 439674 and SWRCB ID: SB20028IN)

Background: On March 3, 2020 the Southern California Edison application for Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification was deemed complete for the Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project (Project).

Project Description: The primary goal of the proposed Project is to construct two new mid-line series capacitors and make other improvements to increase capacity and power flow along three existing 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. The Project includes construction of two new 500 kV mid-line series capacitors—the proposed Newberry Springs Series Capacitor and Ludlow Series Capacitor—under the Eldorado-Lugo and Lugo-Mohave 500 kV Transmission Lines, respectively, near Pisgah Substation in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. It also includes correction of 16 overhead clearance discrepancies, involving relocation, replacement, or modification of existing transmission, subtransmission, and distribution facilities including minor grading along the Eldorado-Lugo, Eldorado-Mohave, and Lugo-Mohave 500 kV Transmission Lines within San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada. Distribution facilities will be installed in unincorporated San Bernardino County in the vicinity of the proposed Newberry Springs Series Capacitor and Ludlow Series Capacitor sites, as well as three proposed fiber optic repeater sites, to provide station light and power.

Where possible, proposed facilities (e.g., construction work areas, access roads, and helicopter landing zones) were designed and located to avoid jurisdictional features. For those impacts that could not be avoided through design or relocation, SCE is proposing measures to avoid and minimize impacts. The Project application reports impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the United States, as shown in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition or better once the Project is complete.

The Bureau of Land Management and the California Public Utilities Commission, acting as lead agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), have prepared and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project. This MND is available at the following website:
https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/elm/toc-fmnd.htm

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity

Aquatic Resource type	**Stream Channel**
Acres of temporary impact	6.432
Linear feet of temporary impact	43,212
Acres of permanent physical loss of area	0.021
Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area	1,795

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project in response to this application.

Applicant: Southern California Edison
Applicant Contact: Felicia Nancarrow
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Email: felicia.r.nancarrow@sce.com

Date Application Deemed Complete: March 3, 2020

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 Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the SUBSCRIBE button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

Select "CWA401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 applications, including the Project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.