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## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: **7021 1970 0002 0497 7176**

June 4, 2024

Southern California Edison  
Victoria Parsons, Water Quality Section Manager  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue GO-1, Environmental Services  
Rosemead, CA 91770  
[Victoria.Parsons@sce.com](mailto:Victoria.Parsons@sce.com)

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. 2004-0004-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DREDGED OR FILL DISCHARGES TO WATERS DEEMED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BE OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION, TD2040869 MERIDIAN AVENUE DETERIORATED POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID NO. 7A363052001), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

Dear Ms. Parsons,

On February 5, 2024, Southern California Edison (SCE or Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction*.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds that the dredge/fill discharges associated with the TD2040869 Meridian Avenue Deteriorated Pole Replacement (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ and may proceed with the Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order 2004-0004-DWQ](#) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf)) is attached and it can be found on the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

Southern California Edison is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading, and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure safe, reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. The purpose of the Project is to remove and replace three wood utility poles (1738228E, 1738227E and 1738226E) with new wood poles. The Project will result in 0.021 acres and 60 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the state, within an isolated watershed not under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The new poles will be set by hand. The new pole holes will be dug by hand or by a machine auger within a three-foot radius of the old poles. Standard excavation depths range between 6 and 10 feet with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet, resulting in approximately 2.62 cubic yards of native soil material to be temporarily stored adjacent to each hole. Once the new poles are set, the conductor wires will be transferred to the new poles from the old poles. The old poles will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved facility. The remaining native soil from the excavation for the new poles will be used to fill the holes vacated by the old poles. Soils not used as part of the backfill process will be removed and disposed of at an approved facility. The area of soil disturbance (i.e., excavation, side casting and backfill) would be limited to approximately 10 feet around each pole. No tree trimming or removal is anticipated. The poles will be accessed by foot from Powerline Road.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located approximately 0.22 miles east of Meridian Road within Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 1 East of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fawnskin, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The Project is located in unincorporated San Bernardino County on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this Order.

Site	Latitude	Longitude
TD2040869	34.372359° N	- 116.907002° W

## APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED

No application fee was assessed for the Project. The fee amounts were determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and were calculated as Category H - "Wildfire Mitigation by Electrical Corporations, Electric Utilities, and Electrical Cooperatives" (fee code 19) with the dredge and fill fee calculator. For Category H fees no application or project fee is due, however, an annual

fee of \$40.00 per mile of overhead electrical lines identified as high risk or high threat in the wildfire mitigation plan will be assessed for the Project. This annual fee covers all dredge or fill activities conducted by the electrical corporations, electrical utilities, and electrical cooperatives pursuant to a wildfire mitigation plan, and is in lieu of the project-specific dredge or fill fees in section 2200(a)(3)(A)-(G) for dredge or fill activities conducted pursuant to a wildfire mitigation plan.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the enrollment of this Project under Order 2004-0004-DWQ, which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the Project, is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the criteria for a Class 1 exemption (§ 15301, Existing Facilities) under the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.). Additionally, no exceptions to the CEQA exemption listed above apply.

Pursuant to CEQA, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this Order and they are included in Attachment B.

### **AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES**

The Discharger must implement the measures identified in the Temporary Impact Restoration Plan submitted with the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ.

### **TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

Upon completion of the Project, SCE shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to be disenrolled under Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. Attachment 2 to Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ contains the NOT form.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Logan Raub, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8966 or at [Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By \_\_\_\_\_

Paula Rasmussen  
Executive Officer  
Colorado River Basin  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Southern California Edison  
TD2040869 Meridian Avenue  
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363052001  
Reg. Meas. ID: 456214  
Place ID: 893975

Enclosures: 1) Attachment A Project Maps  
2) Attachment B CEQA Findings  
3) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

LR/

File: WDID: 7A363052001, RM: 456214, Place ID: 893975, TD2040869 Meridian Avenue  
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, Order 2004-0004-DWQ

Southern California Edison  
TD2040869 Meridian Avenue  
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363052001  
Reg. Meas. ID: 456214  
Place ID: 893975

cc: [via email only] (with enclosures):

Malek Al-Marayati, SCE: [malek.1.almarayati@sce.com](mailto:malek.1.almarayati@sce.com)  
San Bernardino County Environmental Health: [adela.evans@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:adela.evans@dph.sbcounty.gov)  
San Bernardino County Planning Department: [nichollette.marquez@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:nichollette.marquez@lus.sbcounty.gov)  
San Bernardino County Flood Control District: [David.Drake@dpw.sbcounty.gov](mailto:David.Drake@dpw.sbcounty.gov)  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: [BLM\\_CA\\_Web\\_CD@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Web_CD@blm.gov)  
USEPA Region IX 401 Program: [R9cwa401@epa.gov](mailto:R9cwa401@epa.gov)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [matt\\_hamman@fws.gov](mailto:matt_hamman@fws.gov)  
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 6: [Heather.Brashear@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Heather.Brashear@wildlife.ca.gov)  
DDW, State Water Resources Control Board: [Chun.Huang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Chun.Huang@waterboards.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Toxic Substances: [Katie.butler@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Katie.butler@dtsc.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Transportation – District 8: [john.chisholm@dot.ca.gov](mailto:john.chisholm@dot.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Water Resources: [bob.pierotti@water.ca.gov](mailto:bob.pierotti@water.ca.gov)  
401 Program, DWQ, State Water Resources Control Board:  
[Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)  
CA Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery: [WPCMDivision@Calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:WPCMDivision@Calrecycle.ca.gov)

## Attachment A Project Maps

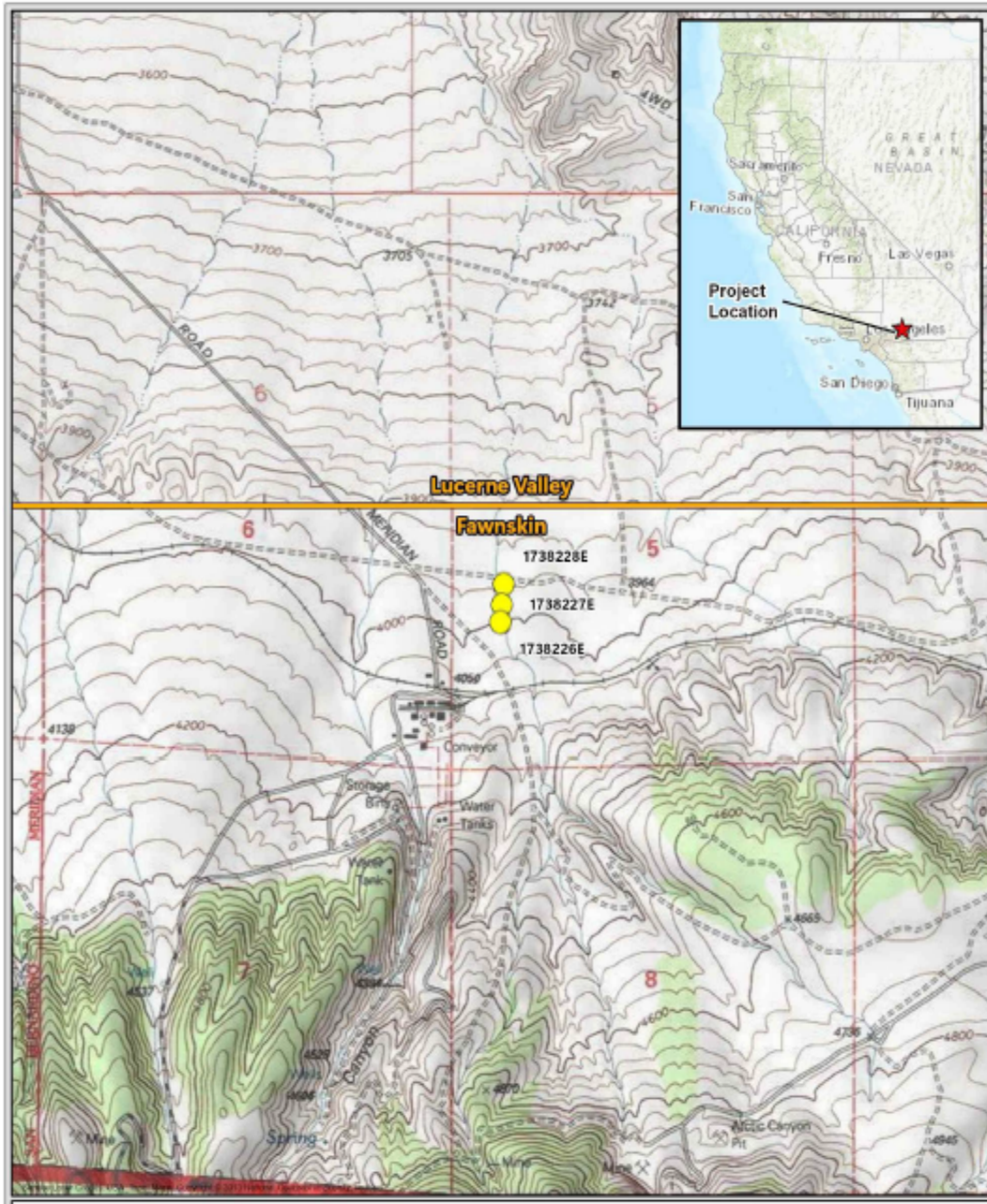


Figure 1: Regional Location Map<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Southern California Edison, February, 2024. Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD2040869 Meridian Avenue Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project.

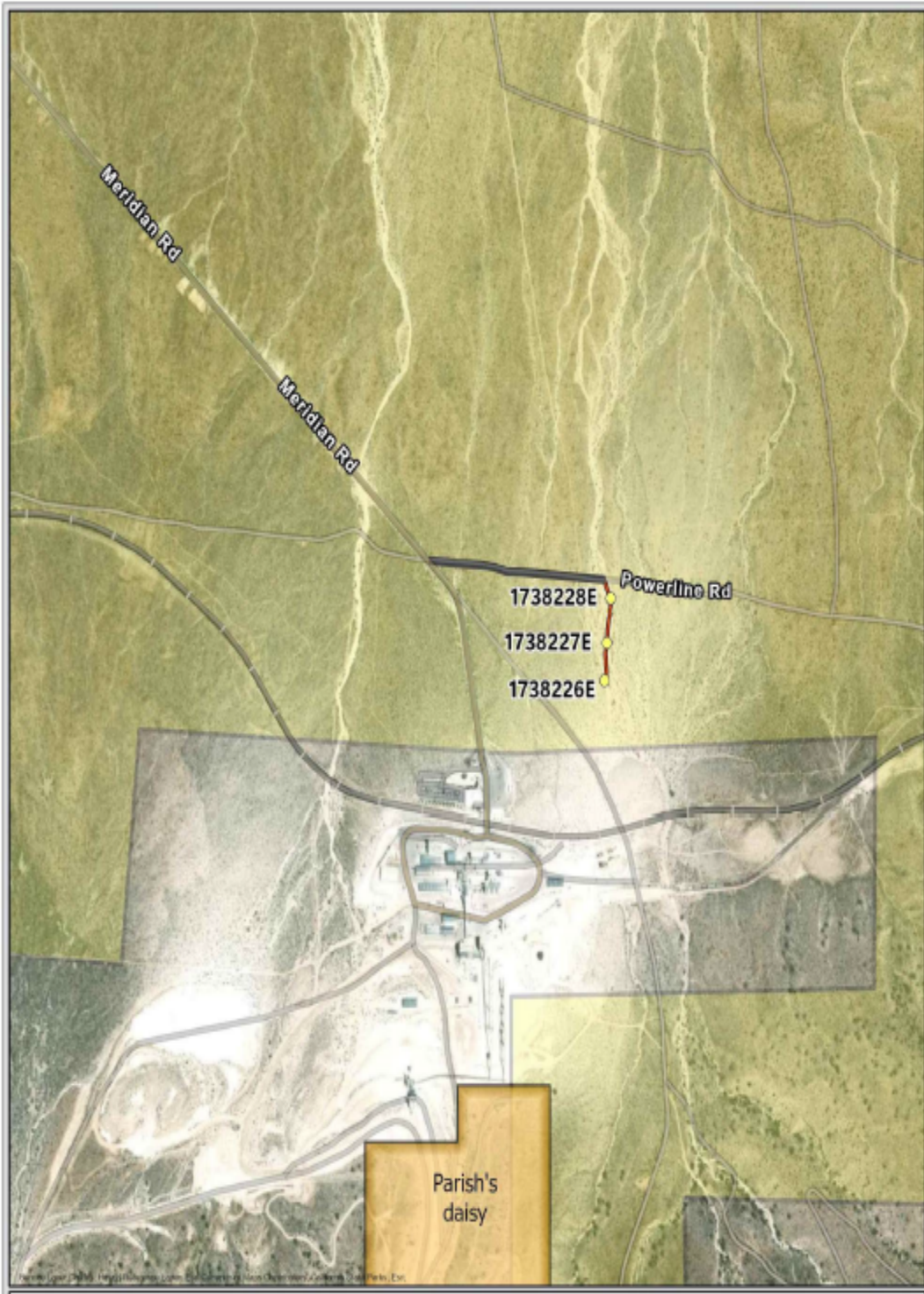
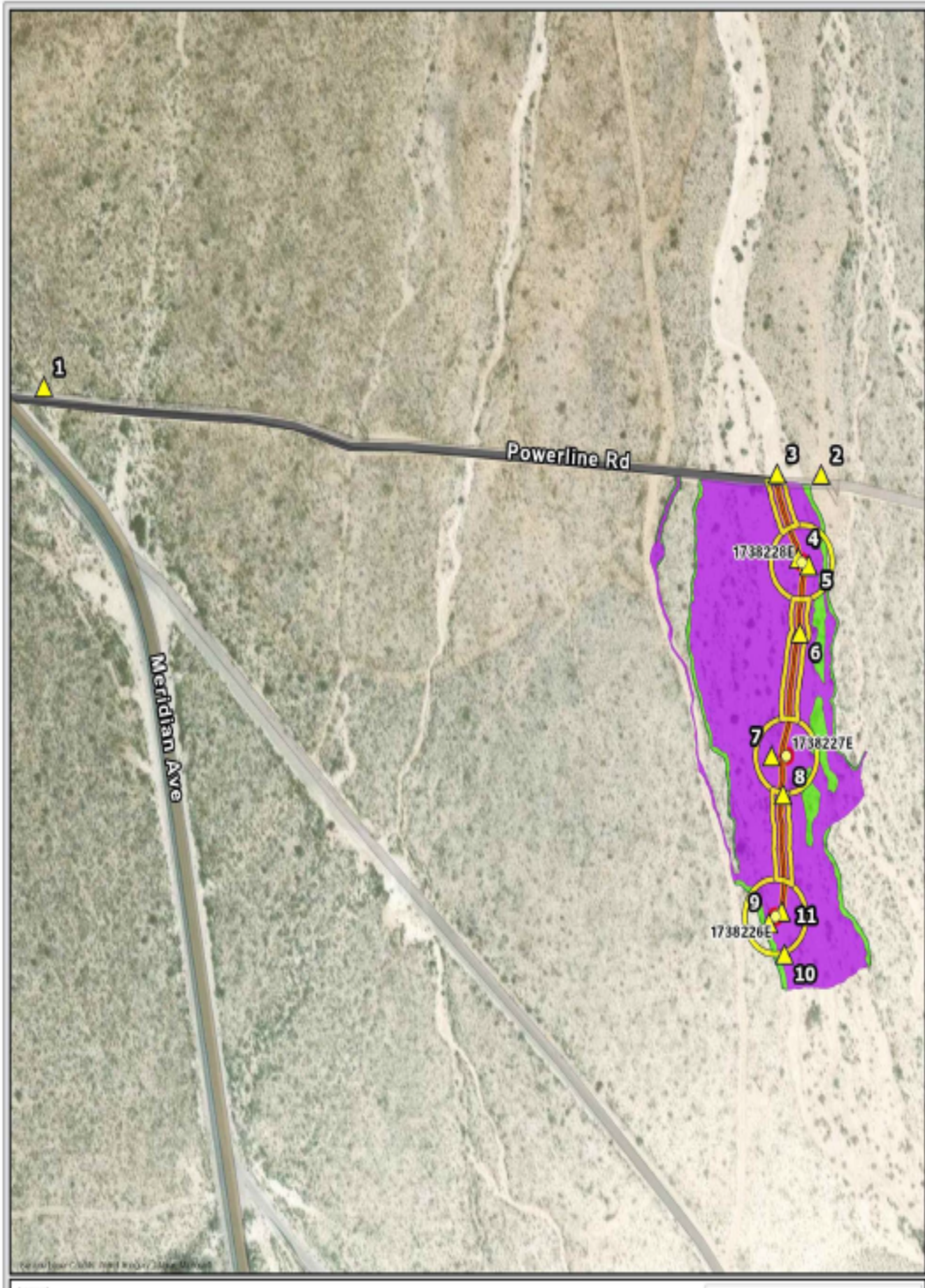


Figure 2: Vicinity Map



**Figure 3:** Mapped Jurisdiction



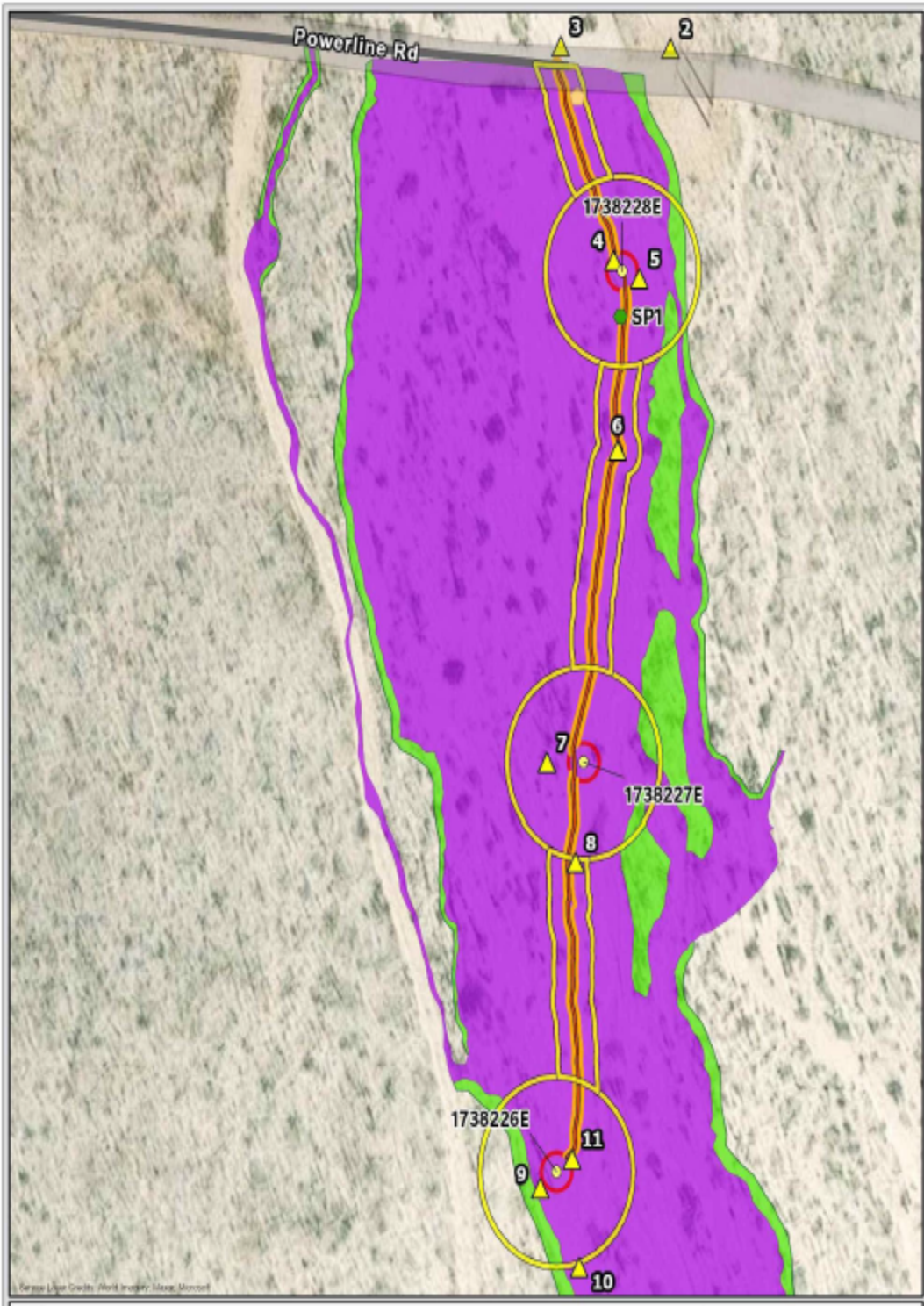


Figure 4: Jurisdictional Impacts



**Photo 1.** Pole 1738228E, View Facing South



**Photo 2.** Pole 1738227E, View Facing North



**Photo 3.** Pole 1738226E, View Facing North



**Photo 4.** Existing Powerline Road, View Facing East

## **Attachment B CEQA Findings**

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### **A. Introduction**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the exemptions criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

### **B. Findings**

#### **1. Applicable Categorical Exemption**

Under title 14, section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 1” categorical exemption where the proposed project “consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination” such as “(b) [e]listing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.”; and “(d) [r]estoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.”

The Project falls within the exemption per section 15301 (Existing Facilities), because the Project involves removing and replacing three wood utility poles with new wood poles. The Project will not result in an expansion of use.

#### **2. No Exceptions to the Categorical Exemption Apply**

There is no substantial evidence that any exceptions to the CEQA categorical exemption listed above apply. Analysis of the relevant exceptions pursuant to section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are as follows:

- a. *Location. Class 4 is qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, this class is considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The Project would involve temporary impacts to Colorado River Basin Water Board jurisdictional waters of the State, within an isolated watershed not under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The work area will be restored to pre-construction conditions following Project

completion. The impacts are anticipated to be short-term and/or less than significant. Furthermore, the Project falls within the exemption found in Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), which is not qualified by consideration of location.

- b. Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

No significant cumulative impacts over time are anticipated. This Project is not a part of a larger project.

- c. Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

There are no "unusual circumstances" that would create a reasonable possibility of significant environmental impacts. All construction will be performed under "no flow" conditions in the washes to preclude potential impacts to water quality. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be used are appropriate for this type of project activity.

- d. Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.*

The Project is located approximately 0.22 miles east of Meridian Road within Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 1 East of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fawnskin, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The Project will not damage the scenic resources within highways/roads as it will be a temporary project. Once work is completed, the area will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

- e. Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of Government Code.*

The Project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- f. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

There is no anticipated substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Project is simply replacing existing poles that have deteriorated.

### **C. Determination**

The issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

The Colorado River Basin Water Board concludes that no exceptions to the CEQA exemption listed above apply to the activities approved by this Order.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062.)

Southern California Edison  
TD2040869 Meridian Avenue  
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363052001  
Reg. Meas. ID: 456214  
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**Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ**

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A copy of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html)