

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Applicant: **~~James R. Greenwood~~ Mr. Hazem Gabr**
Southern California Edison
~~2244~~ 2131 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
Contact: Amanda Duchardt

Project Name: TRTP Segments 7 and 8

Project Location: Various (see Attachments C and D)

Type of Project: Transmission Line

Project Description: SCE's TRTP Segments 7 and 8, is a project component, or "Work Package", of the proposed TRTP. The TRTP is comprised of Segments 4-11. The overall TRTP project includes the construction of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure along approximately 173 miles of new and existing rights of way (ROW) in southern Kern County, portions of Los Angeles County, including the Angeles National Forest; and the southwestern portion of San Bernadino County, California. SCE's stated objectives for the TRTP project are to provide the electrical facilities necessary to integrate new levels of wind generation in excess of 700 megawatts (MW) and up to approximately 4,500 MW in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area. The TRTP project will enable SCE and other California utilities to comply with the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals in an expedited manner.

The TRTP Segments 7 & 8 alignment incorporates approximately 49 miles of 500kV transmission line and seven miles of 220kV transmission line. The alignment includes the installation of 313 new transmission structures and 72 tubular steel riser poles; and the removal of 313 towers. 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 **alignment**). 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 **alignment**).

Existing substations (**Segment 9**) will be upgraded to accommodate new transmission lines and systems (**Segment 9) (All substations are grouped together as Segment 9, regardless of which transmission line Segments are connected to the substations).** To support the installation of the 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, construction of new access roads, and modification of existing access roads where they cross jurisdictional features (referred to as drainage modifications). Wire setup sites require an average area of 300 feet by 100 feet to stretch the transmission line and connect it to towers. Segments 7 and 8 will 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 waters of the U.S. and waters of the State. Projected permanent and temporary effects to waters of the U.S. and waters of the State are summarized in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Attachment C.

AMENDMENT:

SCE's request for an amendment to the water quality certification (Certification) was triggered by changed field conditions due to above-average winter precipitation and the discovery of waters of the U.S. within the Project footprint at Structures M24-T1 and M57-T1 in Tonner Canyon. Tonner Canyon, California received 10.37 inches of rainfall during a 7 day rain event in December 2010. The annual average rainfall in December for Brea, California is 1.29 inches. During a pre-construction survey at Structures M24-T1 and M57-T1, field staff identified a potential jurisdictional drainage within the work limits. This feature was previously identified as a non-jurisdictional swale, which lacked a bed and bank and ordinary high water mark (OHWM). ICF Regulatory Specialists (consultants for SCE) conducted a wetland delineation of the water feature (8-33-S-200) on January 14, 2011, and identified it as an ephemeral drainage. ICF Regulatory Specialists determined that the ephemeral drainage would be under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the

State Water Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game. The construction of two transmission towers and a permanent access road at Structures M24-T1 and M57-T1 will now result in 0.024 acre and 346 linear feet of permanent impact to waters of the U.S. in coast live oak woodland habitat. No temporary impacts to waters will occur at the site. The construction of the two transmission towers was part of the Project in the original Certification but at that time ICF Regulatory Specialists had not identified the feature as a waters of the U.S. So, construction of the two transmission towers had no impact to waters of the U.S. in the original Certification.

Total Project impacts to waters of the U.S., which include the proposed amendment and the original water quality certification for the Project, are 0.09 acre and 586 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.95 acres and 4022 linear feet of temporary impacts.

CEQA:

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 (Final EIR) for the SCE TRTP on December 17, 2009. A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in April 2010 to address the Station Fire **in the Angeles National Forest**, which affected TRTP Segments 6 and 11. The Final EIS for the SCE TRTP was issued in September 2010. **No TRTP related work will occur on Army Corps lands until a Record of Decision has been issued.** State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff have reviewed and considered the environmental documents and the proposed mitigation measures. The State Water Board has determined that the Project will not result in any significant adverse water quality impacts.

Federal Agency Permit(s): The Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is processing **an the original application, and an application for the additional sites that are part of the amendment, to qualify for authorization under Nationwide Permit 12** for TRTP Segments 7 & 8 **for authorization of Nationwide Permit 12 under a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination** (U.S. Army

Corps File Number SPL-2009-00588-PHT). **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Record of Decision in February 2011 for SCE's Request to Cross Whittier Narrows Dam Basin and Santa Fe Dam Basin for the purpose of implementing the TRTP. This allows SCE to conduct work on the Corps' lands. The** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) **issued a** Biological Opinion (FWS-10B0117-10F0215) **issued for the TRTP on** July 31, 2010.

State Agency Permit(s): DFG **is processing an amendment for the** 1600 agreement **for TRTP Segments 7 & 8. and** **DFG previously issued a** 2081 Incidental Take Permit for Segments 7 & 8. **and An** NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities **has been** issued by the State Water Board.

Receiving Waters/
Hydrologic Units: See Tables 1, 2, and 3 of Attachment C

Impacted Waters: Permanent Impacts
Streambed: ~~0.07~~ **0.09** acre, ~~250~~ **586** linear feet

Temporary Impacts
Streambed: 0.95 acre, 4022 linear feet

Non-Compensatory Mitigation: A combination of avoidance and minimization measures is proposed to offset potential effects of Project construction to wetlands and waters of the U.S. All feasible and practical measures will be undertaken to avoid and/or minimize impacts to waters during construction. The Project will be conducted based on mitigation measures in the 2009 FEIR and 2010 FEIS for TRTP, application materials submitted for the Certification, and conditions of this Certification.

Compensatory Mitigation: **A total of 1.29 acre of compensatory mitigation will be acquired through restoration activities at the Upper Lemon Creek mitigation site for 0.09 acres of permanent impacts and 0.95 acres of temporary impacts to streambeds.**

Compensatory mitigation for impacts to biological resources and waters of the U.S and the State are outlined in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) for

Segments 7 & 8. The HMMP requires approval from USFWS, CDFG, the Corps, and the State Water Board. Requirements for each type of water feature that is proposed to be permanently or temporarily impacted are presented in Table 4 of Attachment C. The following information provides a summary of the HMMP, including mitigation for impacts to waters of the U.S.

All permanent impacts and most temporary impacts to waters of the U.S and the State will be mitigated at the Upper Lemon Creek mitigation site ~~Restoration Site~~ in the City of Walnut. No compensatory mitigation is proposed for maintenance grading impacts on 0.02 acre of unvegetated streambed resulting from maintenance grading or vegetation trimming on existing access roads to accommodate construction vehicles.

Mitigation ratios will vary between a 1:1 and a 5:1 ratio (all mitigation ratios are expressed as the ratio of mitigation to impact), depending on the habitat type and whether it is located on Corps-owned land (see Table 4 of Attachment C for more information). The Corps-owned lands within the Project area are Whittier Narrows and the Santa Fe Dam. Temporary impacts to waters will be compensated for through restoration of native habitats on-site and at the Upper Lemon Creek mitigation site ~~Restoration Site~~ at a 1:1 ratio. A total of ~~1.25~~ 1.29 acre of compensatory mitigation will be acquired through restoration activities at the Upper Lemon Creek mitigation site ~~Restoration Site~~ for permanent and temporary impacts.

The mitigation requirements have increased from 1.25 acres to 1.29 acres due to new activities as described in this amendment to the original Certification of TRTP Segments 7 and 8 (FILE NO. SB10002IN). The construction of two transmission towers and a permanent access road at Structures M24-T1 and M57-T1 will result in 0.024 acre and 346 linear feet of permanent impact to waters of the U.S. in coast live oak woodland habitat. The permanent impact will be mitigated by creating 0.036 acre of waters with coast live oak woodland habitat at the Lemon Creek mitigation site. This results in a 1.5 to 1 ratio of compensatory mitigation to impact, as required by the Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/FEIS) for the Tehachapi

Renewable Transmission Project (December 17, 2009). This mitigation is consistent with the mitigation requirements approved in the original water quality Certification for the Project. Permanent and temporary impacts to waters covered under the original water quality Certification are also being mitigated at the Upper Lemon Creek mitigation site.

Compensatory mitigation will occur at the Lemon Creek ~~mitigation site Restoration Site~~ with the development of an encroachment permit and funding of the restoration onsite. After the five-year implementation and monitoring program, management of the property will be transferred from SCE to the City of Walnut, and managed in perpetuity by the City of Walnut with a conservation easement to the San Gabriel Mountain Regional Conservancy or any CDFG-approved 3rd party manager. The parcel that contains the Upper Lemon Creek ~~mitigation site Restoration Site~~ is owned by the City of Walnut and is designated as open space. The Lemon Creek ~~mitigation site Restoration Site~~ occurs in the same watershed as the Project. Functions and services that were taken into account when the mitigation site ~~Restoration Site~~ was chosen include: aquatic habitat diversity, habitat connectivity, relationships to hydrologic sources, land use trends, ecological benefits, and compatibility with adjacent land uses. These functions and services are described in the Army Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule (40 CFR 230.93(b)(1)).

In the Biological Opinion issued for the TRTP, USFWS determined that the level of anticipated take for the TRTP is not likely to result in jeopardy to the federally endangered arroyo toad, the federally threatened California red-legged frog, and the federally threatened desert tortoise. The Biological Opinion contains take thresholds for these species, reasonable and prudent measures, terms and conditions, and conservation recommendations to minimize or avoid adverse effects from Project activities on listed species or critical habitat. These species are not expected to occur within Segments 7 and 8. Potential effects to numerous federally-listed species are addressed in the Biological Opinion for the TRTP; however, most federally-listed species addressed in the Biological Opinion are not expected to be affected by the TRTP.

Species addressed in the Biological Opinion that could be affected in TRTP Segments 7 and 8 are the State and federally-endangered least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher, and the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. USFWS determined that the Project would result in disturbance and some permanent loss of habitat for these species. Protection measures will be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to species habitat. Compensatory mitigation will also be implemented for permanent impacts to species habitat.

In the Incidental Take Permit issued for TRTP, CDFG determined that the Project is expected to result in the incidental take of individuals of Covered Species, including Swainson's hawk, willow flycatcher, desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and least Bell's vireo. Incidental take of Covered Species individuals could occur in the form of mortality ("kill") from various ground disturbing and construction activities, catch and capture of Covered Species from relocation authorized by the ITP, and adverse impacts to the Covered Species related to temporal losses, increased habitat fragmentation and edge effects, and the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. The ITP contains conditions of approval, general provisions, monitoring, notification and reporting provisions, minimization measures, and compensatory mitigation requirements to minimize or avoid adverse effects from Project activities on Covered Species.

Based on a review of mitigation organization options, the Upper Lemon Creek **mitigation site** ~~Restoration Site~~ meets the requirements and contains suitable breeding vegetation for least Bell's vireo (i.e., patches of southern willow scrub and mule fat scrub vegetation) with more than 7.82 acres available for mitigation. Habitat for least Bell's vireo is also suitable habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Therefore, compensatory mitigation for least Bell's vireo will also satisfy mitigation requirements for willow flycatcher.

The Corps-owned Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin area will also be used to mitigate for impacts to listed species that are protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game.

Public Notice:

In satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which governs the State's Certification Program, a Public Notice of Application for ~~Water Quality~~ Certification for the subject Project was posted on the State Water Board website on April 20, 2010. **A Public Notice of Application for Amendment of the Certification for the subject Project was posted on the State Water Board website on April 29, 2011.**

Fees:

On February 17, 2010, a check from the SCE in the amount of \$27,692.80 was received by the State Water Board in payment of required fees associated with ~~this~~ **the original** permit application. **Based on the Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 2200(a)(3); Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator v8 10/07/2008), the additional fee associated with this amendment is \$2,854. SCE has a \$5,500 credit with the State Water Board because SCE submitted more fees than were required for the Notice of Applicability for the State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ for TRTP: Segment 9 – Whirlwind. Therefore, SCE will use their credit with the State Water Board to pay the fee of \$2,854. As a result of this fee payment, SCE's credit balance with the State Water Board is now \$2,646 (= \$5,500 - \$2,854).**