

*Southern California Edison*  
**MESA PTC A.15-03-003**

**DATA REQUEST SET A1503003 ED-SCE-08**

**To:** ENERGY DIVISION  
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**Question 07:**

Provide a description of SCE's practices for vegetation management and other operation and maintenance activities that are designed to comply with state and federal regulations protecting nesting birds.

**Response to Question 07:**

SCE's practices for vegetation management and O&M activities include:

- 1) Environmental specialists conduct an environmental review to identify avian resources that may be impacted by ground-disturbing O&M activities. Avoidance and minimization measures are identified by the specialist, which may include i) pre-activity nesting bird surveys, ii) delaying work when nests are present, iii) having limited operating periods when listed species are breeding, iv) providing biological monitoring and/or v) minimizing the duration and intensity of the O&M activities.
- 2) Providing annual environmental awareness training to vegetation management crews. In this training, crews are instructed to contact the on-call biologist if avian resources are encountered in the field.
- 3) Identifying locations where nesting bird impacts are likely to occur and scheduling vegetation management in these areas outside of nesting season.
- 4) Conducting nesting bird surveys, as needed, ahead of ground-disturbing O&M activities and vegetation management activities. If active nests are discovered, work is delayed until the nest(s) become inactive and a second survey is performed to confirm no new active nests are present.
- 5) During nesting season, O&M activities and vegetation management is limited to that which is necessary to ensure safe and reliable transmission and distribution.
- 6) Retrofitting structures that are potentially hazardous to birds.