

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



Project Name: West of Devers Upgrade Project Request Prepared By: Sylvia Granados

Date Approval Required: 3/27/2018 Variance Request No.: 9

Date Submitted: 3/23/2018 Location: El Casco Substation Access Road, 33985 San Timoteo Canyon Road, Riverside County

Landowner: Southern California Edison

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed/Disturbed/Revegetated

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO ☒ YES Specify: Smooth Tarplant, Hawk Nest, riparian corridor

Modifying (check as many as apply):  
☐ MITIGATION MEASURE ☐ PLAN/PROCEDURE ☐ SPECIFICATION  
☒ DRAWING ☐ PERMIT CONDITION ☐ OTHER

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): Modifications to NTP #3 Telecom Work Area Mapping.

## Description of Change and Justification (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

### Attachments:

☒ CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ☐ ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS ☐ CORRESPONDENCE ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

### New Work Areas Required for OPGW Stringing along the El Casco Access Road

The El Casco access road driveway, from the south wall of the substation to San Timoteo Canyon Road, is required for the staging of work trucks, equipment, and materials associated with the stringing of overhead fiber optic cable on the existing distribution poles located along the access road. In addition, a walking path is required under the existing distribution pole line. Walking paths from each distribution pole to the access road are also required, in addition to 3 equipment staging areas, as shown in the attached figure. Walking paths will be delineated in the field to avoid/minimize impacts to vegetation caused by foot traffic and equipment staging, where possible. Smooth tarplant in the vicinity have been flagged for avoidance.

### Biological Resources:

A desktop analysis of publicly available data and relevant project data was conducted to determine the potential for special-status species to occur at the work location. Since included in early iterations of project design, this location was included in the study area for previous habitat assessments and focused/protocol surveys. In addition, a preconstruction clearance survey was conducted on March 14, 2018 for the El Casco Substation and the access road ([https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis\\_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=429&filterOptionID=4&moduleID=537&defID=2169901](https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=429&filterOptionID=4&moduleID=537&defID=2169901)) and on March 21, 2018 for the El Casco Telecom alignment ([https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis\\_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=429&filterOptionID=4&moduleID=537&defID=2173251](https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=429&filterOptionID=4&moduleID=537&defID=2173251)).

Burrowing Owl – The work areas and vicinity include moderately suitable habitat for burrowing owls. No burrowing owls or potential burrows were observed during the preconstruction survey(s).

Special-status Plants – The work areas are adjacent to occupied smooth tarplant habitat, a WR-MSHCP Covered Species for which a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) has been prepared. However, based on a recent site visit with the contractor, the tarplants were determined to be avoidable. The existing structures will be accessed on foot. No ground disturbing activities will occur. If the construction approach changes, additional avoidance, minimization, and mitigation will be implemented according to the DBESP.

Regulated Trees – No trees are located in the work areas. Therefore, no trees will need to be trimmed or removed; no permits are required for tree trimming or removal.

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, are located in the vicinity of the work area. One red-shouldered hawk nest was observed during preconstruction surveys for the El Casco substation on March 14, 2018. The nest is approximately 150 feet southwest of existing distribution pole 4380934E and 88 feet south of the existing access road. Please see Nest Event 000005 ([https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis\\_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=314&moduleID=427&defID=2170407](https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=314&moduleID=427&defID=2170407)). A buffer reduction will be prepared in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan.

Desert Tortoise – The work location is not located within the range of this species. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Listed Riparian Birds – Least Bell's vireo are known to occur in the riparian habitats associated with San Timoteo Creek east of the substation. Least Bell's vireos were observed during 2012 and 2013 surveys. No least Bell's vireo were observed during the preconstruction surveys. If a nest is observed the biological monitor will implement a 500-foot buffer and construction crews will adhere to procedures described in the Wildlife Noise Monitoring Plan.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat – The work areas are located in suitable habitat for SKR. Trapping surveys focused on LAPM were conducted in 2015. ([WODUP 2015 LAPM RiversideCounty Trapping Survey Final.pdf](#)). No LAPM or SKR were trapped. A preconstruction survey was recently conducted by Stephen Myers, a biologist holding a USFWS recovery permit for the species. No sign of SKR was observed. No ground-disturbing activities are planned. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher – No suitable habitat for gnatcatchers is located within 500 feet of the work locations.

Golden Eagle – Habitat marginally suitable for golden eagle nesting is located within 2 miles of the work location. However, no golden eagle nests were identified within 2 miles of the work location during protocol aerial surveys conducted in 2016 and 2017. While golden eagles may forage in the vicinity of the work location, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna – The work area does not include habitat supporting special-status herpetofauna.

Special-status Small Mammals – During trapping in for LAPM in 2015, the Northwestern Sand Diego Pocket Mouse was trapped in the vicinity of the existing telecom poles. No ground-disturbing activities are planned; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

American Badger, Desert Kit Fox, Ringtail – These species are not anticipated in the vicinity. No burrows or dens consistent with these species were observed during the survey(s).

Jurisdictional Waters – San Timoteo Creek, its tributaries, and the associated riparian areas are mapped as jurisdictional. However, no dredge, fill, or removal of riparian vegetation will occur.

#### **Cultural Resources:**

The El Casco Substation access road work areas are located within the WOD APE and were covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies. The record search and survey results the area were negative for cultural resources. *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Transmission Line Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California*. 2016. Rosemead, CA: Southern California Edison.

#### **Resources:**

Biological    ☐ NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT    ☒ SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT    ☐ N/A

New Survey Report Attached:    ☒ YES    ☐ NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference:

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Cultural    ☒ NO RESOURCES PRESENT    ☐ RESOURCES PRESENT WITH PROJECT APE:    ☐ YES    ☒ NO  
(PAVED/GRAVEL AREA AND NO GROUND DISTURBANCE)

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference: The Project specific Cultural Resources Management Plan:

The substation and associated work areas are located within the WOD APE and were covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies. The record search and surveys were negative for cultural resources. *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Transmission Line Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California*. 2016. Rosemead, CA: Southern California Edison.

**Other Potential Impacts:** (Check any potential changes to permitted impacts and provide details below. Attach additional sheets if needed.)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AIR QUALITY          | <input type="checkbox"/> LAND USE            | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> NOISE               | <input type="checkbox"/> VISUAL          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTAMINATED SOILS   | <input type="checkbox"/> PALEO RESOURCES     | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER RESOURCES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CULTURAL RESOURCES   | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIOECONOMIC       | <input type="checkbox"/> WETLANDS        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  | <input type="checkbox"/> STORM WATER (SWPPP) |  |

NA

**CEQA and Permitting:** (Provide details for any "Yes" answer and attach additional information if needed.)

1. Will modification involve substantial changes that will require major changes to the CEQA document?  
☐ YES ☒ NO
2. Will modification result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts?  
☐ YES ☒ NO
3. Additional agency notifications and/or permit modifications required? ☐ YES ☒ NO

**Conditions of Approval or Reasons for Denial:** (Attach additional information if needed.)

**Required Signatures:** (Attached email approvals may be used in lieu of signatures.)

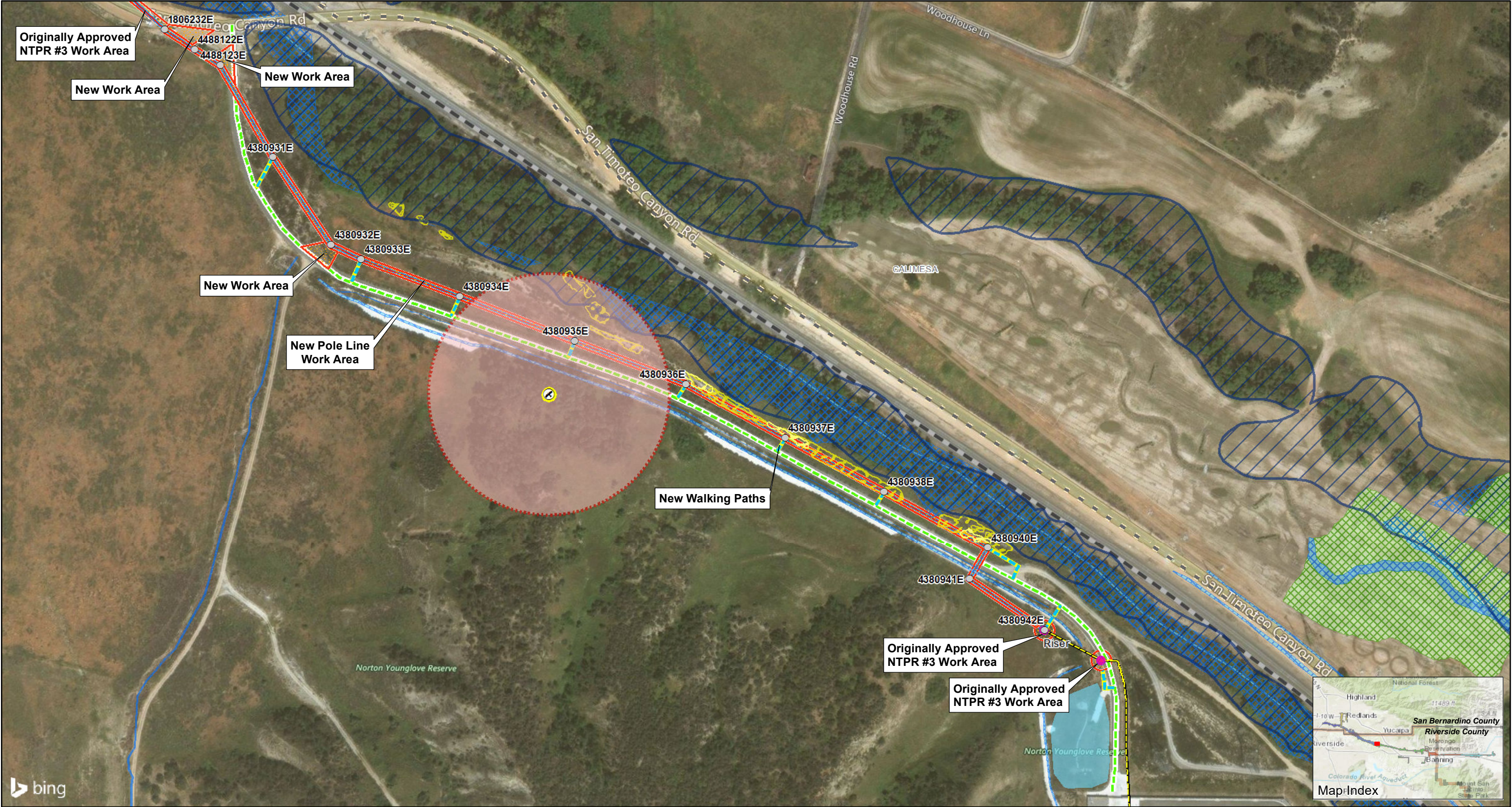
☒ **Chief Construction Inspector or Foreman:** ☒ VARIANCE MODIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION  
Name: Conrad Frost Signature: [Signature] Date: 3-23-2018


☐ **Environmental Inspector:** ☒ FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE  
Name: Hannah Buckley Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/26/18

☒ **Land Agent:** ☒ CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS ☐ NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED  
Name: Anjeanette Barrett Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/23/2018

☒ **Environmental Compliance Lead:** ☒ APPROVED ☐ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (SEE CONDITIONS ABOVE) ☐ DENIED  
Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: [Signature] Date: \_\_\_\_\_








SCE, ESRI World Street Map, Bing Imagery  
\\galt\Proj\SoCalEDISON\493461\MapFiles\Plans\MPR\_9\_2018-03-16\MPR9\_EI\_Casco\_Telecom\_Work\_Areas\_2018-03-23.mxd (3/23/2018)

**LEGEND**

<b>Subtransmission Poles</b>	<b>Subtransmission Lines</b>	<b>Distribution Poles</b>	<b>Distribution Lines</b>	<b>Telecom</b>	<b>Civil Access Roads Lines</b>	<b>Environmental Features</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proposed OH Pole</li><li>Remove OH Structures</li><li>Proposed OH TSP</li><li>Proposed UG Vault</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Modify, 115, OH</li><li>Existing, 66, OH</li><li>Remove, 66, OH</li><li>Proposed, OH</li><li>Proposed, UG</li></ul>	<p><b>STATUS, KV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New, 12</li><li>Modify, 12</li><li>Remove, Pole</li><li>Existing, 12</li></ul>	<p><b>Status, TYPE, KV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove, OH, 12</li><li>Proposed, UG, 12</li><li>Proposed, OH, 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Existing</li><li>Proposed</li><li>Existing, OH</li><li>Existing, UG</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proposed, OH</li><li>Proposed, OPGW</li><li>Proposed, UG</li><li>Remove, OH</li><li>Remove, UG</li><li>Existing Access Road</li><li>Walking Path</li><li>SubTrans/Telecom/Distribution/General Disturbance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Red-shouldered Hawk Nest</li><li>300ft Nest Buffer</li><li>Smooth Tarplant</li><li>Riparian Bird (LBVI/SWFL) Suitable Habitat</li><li>Non-wetland Waters (CDFW)</li><li>Non-wetland Waters (USACE, RWQCB)</li><li>Wetland Waters (CDFW)</li><li>Wetland Waters (USACE, RWQCB)</li></ul>

**Map Index**



**FIGURE 2**

*Southern California Edison  
West of Devers Upgrade Project*

**MPR #9 -  
El Casco Telecom  
Driveway Work Areas**

