

*Southern California Edison*  
**RTRP A.15-04-013**

**DATA REQUEST SET A1504013 ED-SCE-02**

**To:** CPUC

**Prepared by:** Gary Busted

**Title:** Sr. Environmental Project Manager

**Dated:** 03/14/2017

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**Question PD-05:**

**Provide a description of activities that SCE will utilize to ensure proper vegetation clearances for revised overhead and underground portions of the alignment. Clarify if SCE would use herbicides to maintain the clearance. If herbicides would be used, describe the method and frequency of herbicide application.**

The 2013 EIR identifies vegetation clearance of up to an acre around each pole in nonurban areas but does not identify the method for maintaining clearance during construction and operation of the project. The shift in the overhead alignment along Wineville Avenue between Cantu-Galleano Ranch Road and Landon Drive will put the pole structures in a landscaped area. Provide a description of vegetation setbacks and clearances required in this revised alignment. Provide a description of vegetation setbacks or clearances required for the underground transmission segment within the Goose Creek Golf Course.

**Response to Question PD-05:**

SCE's vegetation clearance practices will vary depending on applicable government and regulatory pruning requirements. California Public Resources Code (PRC) 4293 and General Order (GO) 95, Rule 35 require clearance between conductors and vegetation. The specific clearance requirements increase as the line voltage increases. For transmission lines, PRC 4293 requires a 10 foot clearance between the conductor and vegetation be maintained at all times and in all conditions (i.e., sway, sag, snow loading, etc.). GO 95, Rule 35 requires that 18 inches of clearance be maintained at all times for all distribution lines (see GO 95, Rule 35, Table 1, Case Nos. 13-14, available at the CPUC's GO 95 webpage here: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go\\_95\\_table\\_1.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_table_1.html)).

For RTRP, SCE anticipates trimming vegetation to the minimum clearance required by these laws and regulations, plus an amount equal to 1 year of additional growth.

For underground transmission lines, vegetation setbacks are for deep rooted vegetation, such as trees. Herbaceous vegetation is allowed consistent with PRC and GO requirements, but vegetation with the potential for deep roots will be removed to help avoid root system encroachment on and into the underground duct banks. Tree species present on the Goose Creek Golf Course must be assessed to determine the appropriate setback needed for the particular tree species located along or near the proposed RTRP right-of-way (ROW). The ultimate RTRP

ROW setback--in which only herbaceous vegetation will be allowed-- is anticipated to be established based on the expected mature growth of local tree species within the proposed ROW, or along the entirety of the ROW easement, whichever is least.

With respect to herbicide use, SCE does not anticipate using herbicides to maintain the ROW in support of the RTRP transmission line. Vegetation management is typically performed using mechanical means and methods.

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**Question AS-1:**

**Provide additional photographs of the riser pole sets required at each end of the underground segment.**

Additional photographs of the riser poles from several different angles are required to prepare a visual simulation of the riser poles.

**Response to Question AS-1:**

In subsequent meetings with Panorama and the CPUC, it is our understanding that additional visual simulations are not needed at this time. However, in question PD-13 of Data Request 2, the CPUC asked SCE to "*[p]rovide measurements for the anticipated diameters of the proposed riser poles including the cable shroud.* " As this question potentially relates to the CPUC's analysis of the visual simulations provided in the 2016 Visual Technical Report, SCE directs the CPUC to SCE's response to Question PD-13, re-appended here below for convenience:

The main cable shroud that rises up the main pole shaft may, from certain perspectives, add to the perceived diameter of the poles. Since the riser poles for this project have not yet been designed, their diameters have not yet been established. However, based on preliminary assessments, the bottom pole shaft diameters are expected to be approximately 9 feet. The top pole shaft diameter can be assumed to taper to half of the referenced base diameter.

Similarly, since the cable shroud has not been designed, its dimensions cannot be currently determined with certainty. However, the majority of the shroud as it rises up the pole is expected to have a dimension of approximately 12-18 inches, as measured from the pole face. At the base, as the cables transition out of the duct bank and onto the pole face, the cable shroud is expected to have a dimension of approximately 6 feet as measured from the pole face.

Please note that these estimates are based on planning level assumptions, analyses performed to date, and known conditions. Variables which are unknown, unconfirmed, and/or which have not been studied to date, including certain environmental impacts, field conditions, land use and real property issues (including need for appropriate access and rights-of-way), need for specialized electrical facilities and infrastructure, and the confirmed presence of existing utilities (including existence and depth of underground utilities), could materially affect the estimates provided. These estimates are subject to change following completion of final engineering, identification

and/or verification of field conditions, completion of underground surveys, availability of labor, material, and equipment, compliance with applicable environmental and permitting requirements, and other factors.

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**Question AQ-1:**

Provide the original excel spreadsheets used to analyze the RTRP for the 2013 RTRP EIR.

**Response to Question AQ-1:**

Attached is the excel table used to develop the Air Quality calculations that are found in the June 2011 Air Quality Technical Report for the October 23, 2012 RTRP FEIR.