

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form

Project Name: ELM Series Capacitor Project Request Prepared By: Barnard Construction

Date Approval Required: October 15, 2021 Variance Request No.: CPUC MPR #5

Date Submitted: October 13, 2021 Location: Potable water hydrant located on road shoulder in front of 3273 Needles Highway, Needles, San Bernardino County

Landowner: City of Needles

Landowner Parcel Number: Paved street right-of-way road shoulder

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Disturbed/developed road shoulder

Existing Sensitive Resource?  NO  YES Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration Mitigation Measure (MM) BR-3: Minimize native vegetation and habitat loss

## Description of Change and Justification

Attachments:

PHOTO CONSTRUCTION DRAWING  ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS  CORRESPONDENCE  OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

## OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

### Proposed Water Source

Water trucks will park along the paved road shoulder along Needles Highway to access an existing potable water hydrant located on the curb (disturbed/developed) in front of an existing warehouse facility in a light industrial area of Needles, California, as shown in Figure 1, page 1. Only occasional short-term filling of water trucks will occur, while allowing access to local land uses. No ground disturbance will occur at the water source location. No impacts to regulated trees, jurisdictional waters, biological, or cultural resources are required for use of the water source. Water will be stored in water trucks in approved yards and parking areas or will be hauled directly to work sites for use as dust control and fire prevention.

### ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

An alternatives analysis included a “no perform” option, which is not possible since water is required during construction activities for fire protection and to control fugitive dust. Water sources are extremely limited within the project area; therefore, water must be trucked onsite from viable water sources offsite, for the safety of workers and protection of the environment.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

A desktop environmental analysis was performed to determine the potential for impacts to sensitive resources to occur during implementation of the approved activities within the proposed work area. The analysis relied upon information from publicly available datasets and data collected for the project during the licensing/permitting and construction phases of the project.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed work area is located within a light industrial area located within the City of Needles, outside of the study area for previous habitat assessments and focused/protocol surveys. A desktop analysis of publicly available data (e.g., CNDDDB) and relevant project data were reviewed to determine the potential for special-status species to occur in the proposed work area, and to assess the potential impacts to biological resources.



### Site Description

The proposed water source is an existing potable water hydrant located on a disturbed/developed road shoulder, on a curb adjacent to a paved road, in a light industrial area of Needles, California. The road shoulder is devoid of native habitat. Only occasional short-term filling of water trucks will occur at the hydrant, while allowing access to local land uses. Water trucks will park immediately adjacent to the water source to fill water trucks using equipped hoses and on-board pumps. No ground disturbance will occur.

The water source is not located within habitats that may support special-status plants and terrestrial wildlife. Because no ground-disturbance will occur and water trucks will be positioned on the existing paved road, no impacts to special-status terrestrial wildlife (e.g., burrowing small mammals) or special-status plants are anticipated. The water source is located adjacent to suitable habitats for nesting birds, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface. However, the water source location is situated such that the proposed work activities would be conducted from existing disturbed/developed areas. In addition, the act of filling water trucks will be of short duration and similar to baseline conditions, which include public traffic associated with the local light industrial businesses, a power distribution substation, and warehouses. Preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to use of the water source and periodic sweeps will be conducted during the breeding season. See Figure 1 attached.

### Nesting Birds

Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by the California Fish and Game Code and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, can be found throughout the Project area.

A preconstruction survey for nesting birds will be conducted prior to the initiation of construction activities during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31). If active nests are identified, avoidance buffers will be established in accordance with the project Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP). With implementation of the NBMP, no impacts are anticipated.

### Special-Status Riparian Birds

No suitable habitat for riparian birds (least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatchers) occurs within 500 feet of the proposed work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

### Golden Eagle

Based on a review of USFWS data and both aerial habitat assessments and protocol surveys conducted for the Project, suitable nesting habitat for golden eagles does not exist within 2 miles of the proposed hydrant.

Work activities are not proposed to occur during the golden eagle breeding season. Therefore, no active golden eagle nests are expected to occur in the vicinity and no impacts are anticipated.

### **Burrowing Owl**

The entire Project is located within the overall range of the burrowing owl and burrowing owl habitat is widespread across its footprint, including on/near the proposed work area. No burrowing owls, burrows, or sign have been observed in or near the proposed work area.

A preconstruction survey will be conducted prior to the initiation of construction activities in the proposed work area. If any burrowing owl are found during the preconstruction survey or construction activities, potential impacts will be addressed according to the Burrowing Owl Passive Relocation Plan. With the implementation of Project mitigation measures, no impacts to the species are anticipated.

### **Special-Status Bats**

No rocky outcrops or trees potentially providing suitable roosting habitat for bat species will be affected by the proposed work. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Special-Status Small Mammals**

Special-status small mammals such as the American badger, desert kit fox, and/or ringtail can occur in many parts of the Project area, as suitable habitat is widespread. Based on the existing data reviewed and habitat conditions observed, the desert kit fox and American badger are assumed to be potentially present regionally, but not adjacent to the developed water source area. Suitable habitat for the ringtail is present in the region, but is limited in extent to riparian areas and some desert mountains, and not adjacent to the developed water source area. If any special-status small mammals are found during the preconstruction survey or construction activities, potential impacts will be addressed according to the Desert Kit Fox, American Badger, and Ringtail Avoidance and Mitigation Plan and mitigation measures. With the implementation of Project mitigation measures, no impacts to the species are anticipated.

### **Desert Bighorn Sheep**

Suitable habitat for desert bighorn sheep is present on the Project and this species is known to occur. However, no desert bighorn sheep have been previously observed in the vicinity of the proposed work area. The water source is not located within the range of the species. With monitoring, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Desert Tortoise**

The proposed work area is not located within suitable desert tortoise habitat, as determined by vegetation types and ground cover. The proposed work area is a disturbed/developed road shoulder and paved road, devoid of native habitat required to support the species.

A preconstruction survey will be conducted prior to the initiation of construction activities in the proposed work area. If any desert tortoises are found during the preconstruction survey or construction activities, potential impacts will be addressed through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and biological monitoring.

### **Special-Status Terrestrial Herpetofauna**

A preconstruction survey will be conducted prior to the initiation of construction activities in the new work area. If any special-status terrestrial herpetofauna are found during the preconstruction survey or construction activities, potential impacts will be addressed through implementation of the mitigation measures. With the implementation of Project mitigation measures, no impacts to the special-status species are anticipated.

### **Special-Status Plants**

The new work area is a developed/disturbed road shoulder along a paved road, and as such, is devoid of native plants. No special-status plants have been observed in the vicinity.

The work is scheduled to occur outside the growing season for most special-status annuals, and due to drought conditions, many annuals and event perennial herbs are not currently present. Given these conditions and considering that the activities involve drive and crush, no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated.

In general, if special-status plants are observed, potential impacts to special-status plants will be addressed in accordance with the Special-Status Plant Salvage and Relocation Plan.

**Cacti, Yucca, and Trees**

The new work area is a developed/disturbed road shoulder along a paved road, and as such, is devoid of native cacti, yucca, and trees. Any cacti and yucca found during the preconstruction survey or construction activities will be avoided to the extent feasible. Unavoidable impacts to cacti and yucca will be addressed in accordance with the Cacti and Yucca Salvage and Relocation Plan.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

A desktop analysis was conducted to determine the presence of and potential impacts to cultural resources within and directly surrounding the proposed work area.

The proposed water hydrant is located on a previously disturbed/developed road shoulder on a curb adjacent to a paved road. Water trucks will travel on paved roads to access the hydrant, and then enter the APE along approved project access roads. Since no ground disturbing activities are required, there is little potential for unanticipated discovery of previously unrecorded cultural resources in this developed area. If cultural resources are encountered unexpectedly, a standard work stoppage will be implemented, and a qualified archaeologist contacted. The discovery would then be addressed in accordance with the project’s CRMP.

**PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Since excavation is not proposed within the scope of work to be conducted at the water source, no impacts to paleontological resources are expected. If earth disturbance is required, further analysis by an approved paleontological monitor will be required to assess impacts and monitoring requirements per the Project’s Paleontological Resources Monitoring Plan.

**JURISDICTIONAL WATERS**

No wetlands or other jurisdictional waters are present within the proposed work area associated with the new water source.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on close examination and analysis of the proposed work areas and scope of work, no environmental constraints that warrant further review or would preclude approval of the work areas were identified. With preconstruction clearance surveys and implementation of the project mitigation measures and permit conditions, no additional significant impacts to biological, archaeological, paleontological resources, or jurisdictional waters are anticipated.

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**Resources:**

Biological  NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT  SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT  N/A

New Survey Report Attached:  YES  NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference:

Insignia Environmental. 2018. Revised Biological Resources Technical Report for the Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project. April.

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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:

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If not in APE, attach new survey report. Not applicable. No potential impacts to cultural resources are anticipated since no ground disturbance is required to access the existing hydrant on paved/developed surfaces.

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**Other Potential Impacts:**

- AIR QUALITY
- BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- CONTAMINATED SOILS
- CULTURAL RESOURCES
- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
- LAND USE
- NOISE
- PALEO RESOURCES
- SOCIOECONOMIC
- STORM WATER (SWPPP)
- TRAFFIC
- VISUAL
- WATER RESOURCES
- WETLANDS

**CEQA and Permitting:**

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:**

**Required Signatures:**

SCE Construction Manager:

Name: Jeff Miller Signature: *Jeff Miller* Date: 10/13/21

SCE Real Estate Manager:

Name: Stephanie Tsai Signature: *Stephanie Tsai* Date: 10/13/21

SCE Environmental Project Manager:

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: *Sylvia Granados* Date: 10/13/21

SCE Project Manager:

Name: Selya Arce Signature: *Selya Arce* Date: 10/13/21

DocuSigned by:  
Selya Arce  
C5F822F01349444

Environmental Compliance Lead:

Name: Lisa Amador Signature: *Lisa Amador* Date: 10/13/21



**Legend**  
Proposed Work Area  
Existing Hydrant

**EDISON**  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
EDISON

Sources: SCE, Esri

V:\git\proj\SCC\EDISON\3365\200\MapFiles\MPR\Bernard\MPR\_1\CPLUC\Fig1\_MPR\_4.mxd (10/12/2021)



**FIGURE 1**  
Southern California Edison  
Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave  
Series Capacitor Project  
**Proposed Work Area**  
MPR #5

**Certificate Of Completion**

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Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 6	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0
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Envelope Stamping: Enabled	DANIEL SARMIENTO
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	DANIEL.SARMIENTO@SCE.COM
	IP Address: 163.116.132.117

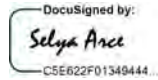
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