

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: 6/18/2018 Variance Request No.: 16

Date Submitted: 6/11/2018 Location: Smith Creek Crossing at Old Banning Idyllwild Road and access paths along the Coyote Trail, in the City of Banning and Riverside County.

Landowner: Southern California Edison, Banning Fund Land, DJL Properties

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed/Disturbed/Grassland Forbland/Alluvial Scrub/Coastal Sage Scrub

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: Smith Creek, LA Pocket Mouse Habitat, Golden Eagle Nest

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

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

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CORRESPONDENCE OTHER: _____

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Realignment at Smith Creek

The HDD alignment of the Devers-Valley Telecommunications Route at Smith Creek has been relocated primarily to follow Old Banning Idyllwild Road and reduce impacts to jurisdictional waters and suitable habitat for Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM), as shown in Figure 1.

The first HDD run will begin west of existing riser pole 256815S, and extend approximately 363-feet west along Old Banning Idyllwild Road under Smith Creek, then approximately 120-feet of underground cable will be installed via open cut trench along Old Banning Idyllwild Road to the bore pit for a second HDD run, approximately 190-feet in length, in a southeasterly direction to DPV2 Tower M21T1.

The temporary disturbance impacts associated with the realignment total 0.49 acre, as described below:

<u>Vegetation Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Alluvial Scrub	0.23
Coastal Sage Scrub	0.20
<u>Grassland/Forbland</u>	<u>0.06</u>
Total	0.49

Of the 0.49-acre disturbance impact, the temporary disturbance impacts to Jurisdictional Waters total 0.14 acre.

New Access Paths Required for Devers-Valley OPGW Stringing along the Coyote Trail

From pole 256815S, approximately 4,120 feet of new fiber optic cable will be installed to the east on existing distribution poles (combination of public and private lands) along the unpaved ROW to distribution pole 1589126E to the northeast, as shown in Figure 2. Along the route, four new access paths are required along the Coyote Trail, to access stringing locations from the previously approved access paths shown in Figure 2.

The temporary disturbance impacts associated with the new access paths total 0.09, as described below:

<u>Vegetation Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Coastal Sage Scrub	0.07
<u>Grassland/Forbland</u>	<u>0.02</u>
Total	0.09

Biological Resources:

The majority of the Devers-Valley Telecommunications Route is located along developed, disturbed, and compacted portions of Old Banning Idyllwild Road. The adjacent habitats are classified as alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, and grassland/forbland for most of the alignment.

Special-status Plants – No special-status plants were observed within the work areas or survey buffer during previous special-status plant surveys. No impacts to special-status plant species are anticipated.

Regulated Trees – No trees have been identified for trimming or removal. If it is later determined that tree trimming or removal is needed, SCE will obtain required permits and approvals, as needed.

Jurisdictional Waters – A jurisdictional water is located east of existing pole 1589126E and runs south to approximately 60 feet east of existing pole 256809S. Existing poles 256814S and 256815S are located along Old Banning Idyllwild Road near a jurisdictional tributary connecting to Smith Creek. Work at the existing poles consists of overhead stringing, with no ground disturbing activities, therefore no impacts to jurisdictional waters are expected. Impacts to jurisdictional waters will be avoided by using rubber tired work trucks to transport crew members along Old Idyllwild Road and the approved private driveways on the existing trails to the distribution pole line easement. Crew members will carry pole arms and hardware from their vehicle to each distribution pole on foot. Work at Smith Creek will be conducted via HDD to minimize impacts to the jurisdictional waters. Work will be conducted in compliance with the West of Devers 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, 404 Nationwide Permit, 401 Water Quality Certification, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, can be found throughout the work areas. A preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted within 10 days prior to construction initiation and daily clearance sweeps will be conducted during nesting bird season.

Golden Eagle – A known perennial golden eagle nest is located within 2 miles of the telecom alignment. The nearest pole to the nest is #256813S and the nest is within 0.74 miles of the Devers-Valley telecom route. The substrate is a cliff cavity approximately 60 feet above the ground surface. Aspect is approximately NNW. The nest location is well hidden by ridgelines to the south and east, but overlooks a canyon which opens to the forage ground along Old Banning Idyllwild Road and Smith Creek below. The portion of the alignment from pole 256814S west is visible from the nest. A 1-mile buffer from the nest was established in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan (FRED Bird Nest Event 000002) and the nest has been monitored by avian biologists to document productivity. Follow-up surveys will continue to be conducted by an avian approved biologist to determine nest status. It is anticipated that the nest will fledge around June 15, 2018. No construction will occur within the 1-mile buffer until the nest fledges.

Special-status Small Mammals – Suitable habitat for LAPM is located south of Highway 243 off Old Idyllwild Road to approximately 180 feet south of existing pole 256842S. Suitable habitat for LAPM is also located from approximately 85 feet west of existing pole 256814S to the full extent of the HDD alignments and work areas at Smith Creek. Where habitat is suitable for LAPM along the telecom alignment, SCE assumes presence and will implement the *Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Avoidance and Minimization Plan*.

LAPM qualified biologist, Stephen Myers, lead a preconstruction planning site visit in preparation for this MPR. Based on the nature of the planned work activities and the locations of habitat patches, Mr. Myers and the construction managers determined that impacts to LAPM can be avoided, provided a qualified biologist successfully completes trapping in the areas identified in Figure 1, monitors the maintenance and effectiveness of the wildlife barrier, and is present to assist the contractor by "micrositing" rubber tired trucks and equipment as the work takes place, implementing the use of load spreading devices, as necessary and consistent with the *Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Avoidance and Minimization Plan*.

American Badger, Desert Kit Fox, Ringtail – No suitable habitat for American badger, desert kit fox, or ringtail is present; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Desert Tortoise – The work locations are outside the known range of the desert tortoise.

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna – No suitable habitat for special-status terrestrial herpetofauna is present; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat – No suitable habitat for Stephen's kangaroo rat is present; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-status Bats – No suitable habitat for special-status bats is present; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Burrowing Owl – Based on historic occurrences and project survey data, burrowing owls have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the telecom work area. No burrowing owl or sign has been observed within the previous survey area. No impacts to burrowing owls are anticipated.

Listed Riparian Birds – No suitable habitat for listed riparian birds is present within 500 feet of the telecom work area; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher – No suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher is present; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Cultural Resources:

The new work areas above 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.*

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference:

https://www.sceprojects.com/modules/fileUploadForm/dis_fileUploadForm.cfm?featureID=429&moduleID=537&defID=2157962. A new preconstruction survey will be conducted within 10-days prior to the start of construction.

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 new work areas above 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: APPROVED FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

Name: Conrad Frost Signature: *Conrad Frost* Date: 6-11-2018

Environmental Inspector: FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

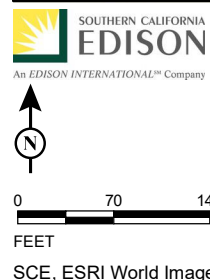
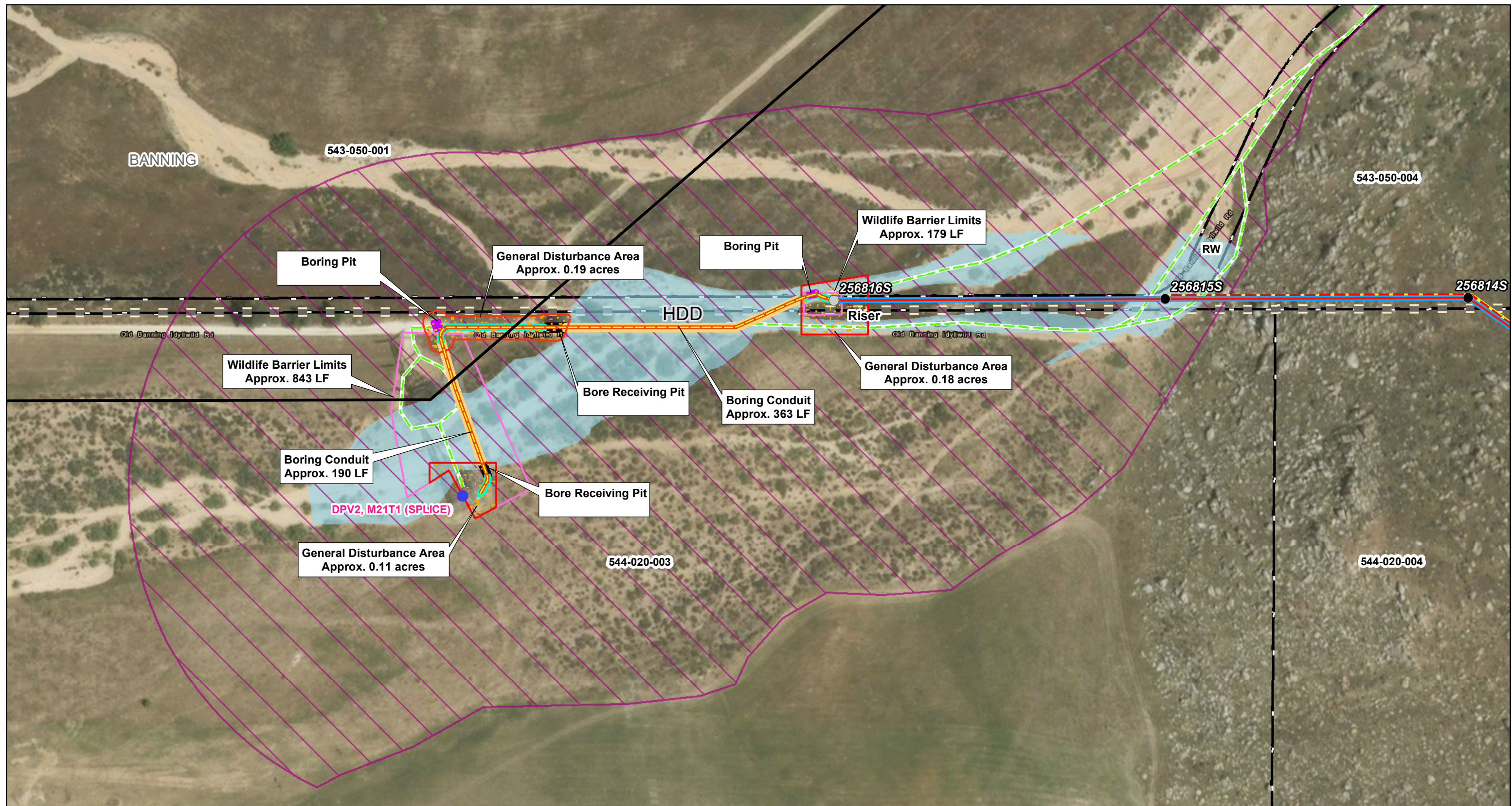
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: *Lisa Amador* Date: 6-11-2018

Land Agent: CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature: *James Spence* Date: 6-11-18

Environmental Compliance Lead: APPROVED APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (SEE CONDITIONS ABOVE) DENIED

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: *Sylvia Granados* Date: _____



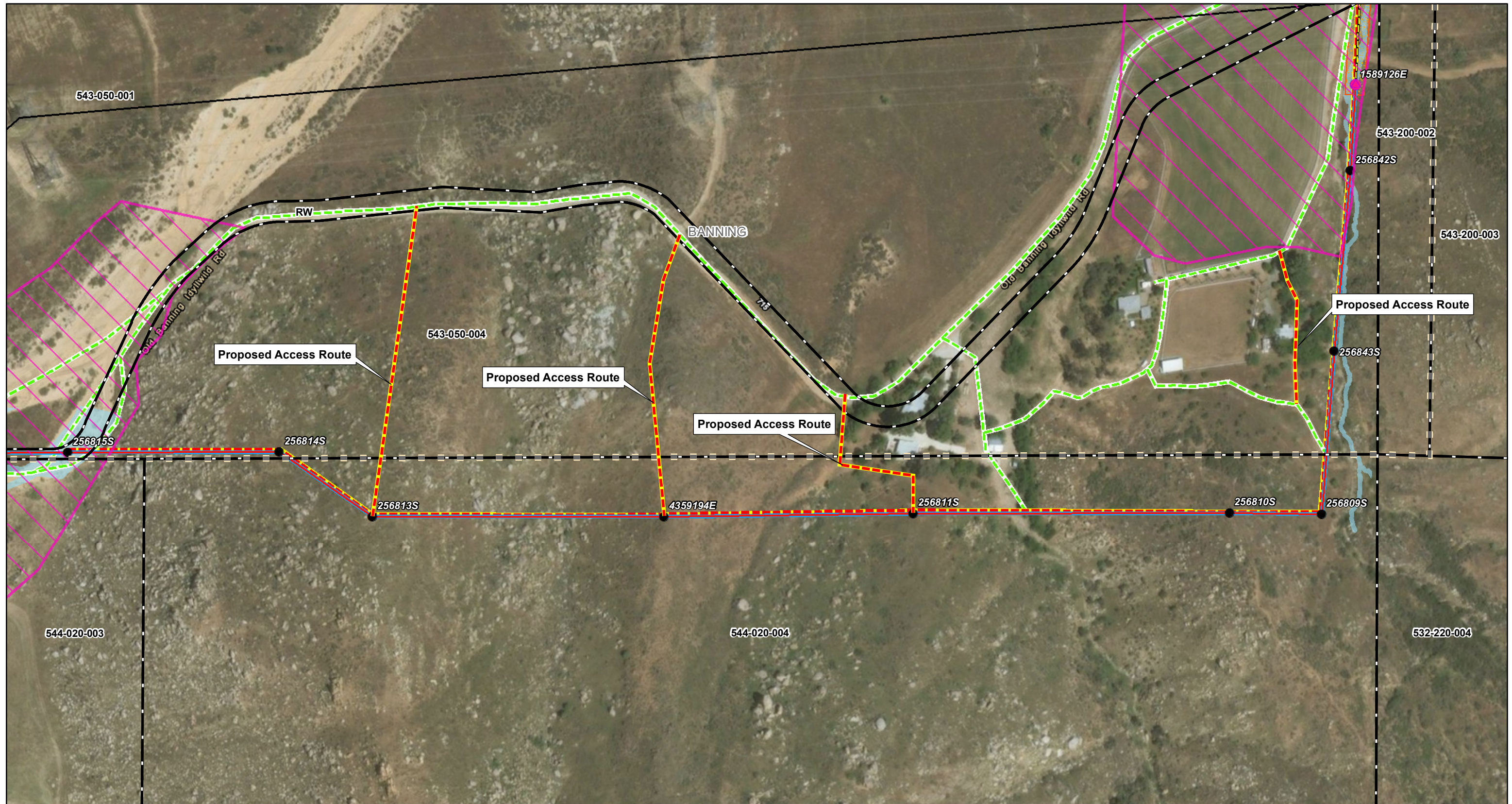
LEGEND


- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Telecom Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposed <p>Telecom Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposed, OH — Proposed, UG | <p>Distribution Poles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing <p>Subtransmission Poles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing | <p>Major Trans Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Existing <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — New — Existing | <p>Construction Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bore Receiving Pits ■ Boring Conduit ■ Boring Pit ■ General Disturbance Area ■ Open Cut Conduit ■ Wildlife Barrier Limits | <p>▭ Parcel Boundary</p> <p>▭ City Boundary</p> | <p>▭ Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Suitable Habitat</p> <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <p>▭ CDFW/RWQCB/USACE Jurisdiction</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|



FIGURE 1

Southern California Edison
 West of Devers Upgrade Project
 MPR #16 -
 Smith Creek
 UG Telecom Conduit Design




 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDISON
 An EDISON INTERNATIONAL™ Company
 SCE, ESRI World Imagery

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Telecom Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing <p>Telecom Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing, UG Proposed, OH | <p>Distribution Poles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing <p>Major Trans Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing | <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Existing <p>Construction Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Disturbance Area | <p> Parcel Boundary</p> <p> City Boundary</p> <p> Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Suitable Habitat</p> <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDFW/RWQCB/USACE Jurisdiction |
|---|---|---|--|

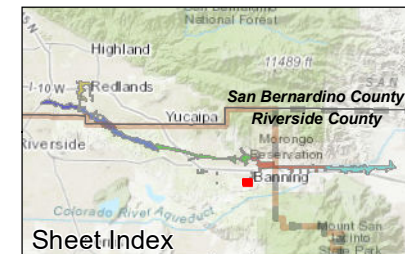


FIGURE 2

Southern California Edison
 West of Devers Upgrade Project
 MPR #11 -
 Smith Creek
 Proposed Access Routes