

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: 1/18/2019 Variance Request No.: 24

Date Submitted: 1/15/2019 Location: San Bernardino Junction, in the City of Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

Landowners: City of Loma Linda Landowner Parcel Numbers: 0293-052-18, 0294-011-02

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed/Disturbed; Grassland/Forbland

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: SKR suitable habitat; Jurisdictional waters

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 #4 Mapping

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CORRESPONDENCE OTHER: _____

New Wire Stringing Site at the San Bernardino Junction

An additional .47-acre work area is required to support wire stringing activities associated with construction activities at the San Bernardino Junction, as shown in Figure 1.

The total temporary work area associated with the new wire stringing set-up area consists of approximately 0.11 acre of developed/disturbed land and 0.36 acre of grassland/forbland in the City of Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

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 in the new work area. Since included in early iterations of project design, this new work area was included in the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments and focused surveys). The new work area was also covered within the survey area for active preconstruction FRED Survey ID 000103.

Burrowing Owl – Burrowing owls have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the new work area. No burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign were observed within the new work area during previous surveys. Preconstruction clearance surveys and sweeps will be conducted prior to the start of construction activities. No impacts are anticipated.

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

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, are located within the new work area and the vicinity. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to construction in the new work areas during nesting bird season (January 1 through August 31). If active nests are found, potential impacts will be mitigated through implementation of the Nesting Bird Management Plan.

Golden Eagle – Based on aerial habitat assessments and protocol surveys conducted for the project, no suitable nesting habitat for golden eagles is located within 2 miles of the work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Regulated Trees – No tree trimming, or tree removal is currently required for construction activities in the work area. Should trimming or removal become necessary, relevant permits will be acquired from the local jurisdictions. No impacts are anticipated.

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna – An adult San Diegan Tiger (Coastal) Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) was observed climbing a barren sunny-side slope approximately 280-feet northwest of the new work area in October 2018. The bright blue tail and orange throat were readily visible through binoculars. Clearance sweeps will be conducted prior to construction. If special-status herpetofauna are observed within the work areas, they will be allowed to vacate on their own power and/or qualified biologists will move them out of harm's way. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. See Figure 1.

Listed Riparian Birds – No suitable habitat for the listed riparian birds (LBVI/SWFL) is mapped within the new work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher – No suitable habitat for CAGN is located within 500 feet of the new work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat – The new work area is located within mapped suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR). Trapping surveys were conducted in 2016, 2017, and 2018. No SKR were captured. Based on a lack of historic data, habitat conditions, and negative results over several years of surveys, SKR are not expected. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. Nonetheless, because SKR habitat is subject to compensatory mitigation pursuant to the Incidental Take Permit for the project, portions of approved wire stringing sites WSS-3X59-1 and WSS-3X59-2, also located in mapped suitable SKR habitat, will remain unused to offset the new impact area.

Special-status Bats – No potential bat roosting sites have been identified within the new work area during bat habitat assessments conducted by Ed West (MOU Bat Specialist) in July 2018. No suitable bat roosts exist in the work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-status Small Mammals – Special-status small mammals such as the pallid San Diego pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, American badger, desert kit fox, and/or San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project area. The new work area is outside the known range and/or habitat of the Palm Springs pocket mouse, ringtail, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel; therefore, these species are not expected. No mapped suitable habitat for the Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM) occurs within the new work area. Historic San Diego pocket mouse occurrences are located approximately 470 feet northwest of the new work area. See Figure 1. Clearance sweeps will be conducted prior to construction. If any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan.

Special-status Plants – A California walnut (*Juglans californica*; CRPR 4.2) tree is located approximately 270-feet northwest of the new work area. Since this tree is not located within the new work area, no impacts will occur. See Figure 1.

Jurisdictional Waters – One non-wetland ephemeral jurisdictional feature surrounds the work area on three sides. The feature does not intersect the new work area and will be protected during ground disturbing activities; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Cultural Resources

The new work area is located within the WOD APE and was covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies *West of Devers: Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory* (LSA, 2013) and *Area of Potential Effects for the Engineering Refinements Survey and Recommendation of Eligibility for Cultural Resources with Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Project* (ASM, 2015). The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources.

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT N/A

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: The new work area was covered within active FRED Survey Report ID 000103.

Cultural : NO RESOURCES PRESENT RESOURCES PRESENT WITH PROJECT APE: YES NO

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference:

The new work area is located within the WOD APE and was covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies. The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources. West of Devers: Cultural Resources Assessment and Class III Inventory (LSA, 2013) and Area of Potential Effects for the Engineering Refinements Survey and Recommendation of Eligibility for Cultural Resources with Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Project (ASM, 2015).

If not in APE, cite new survey report:

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.)

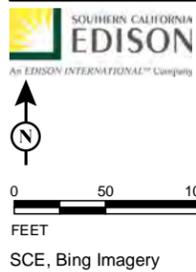
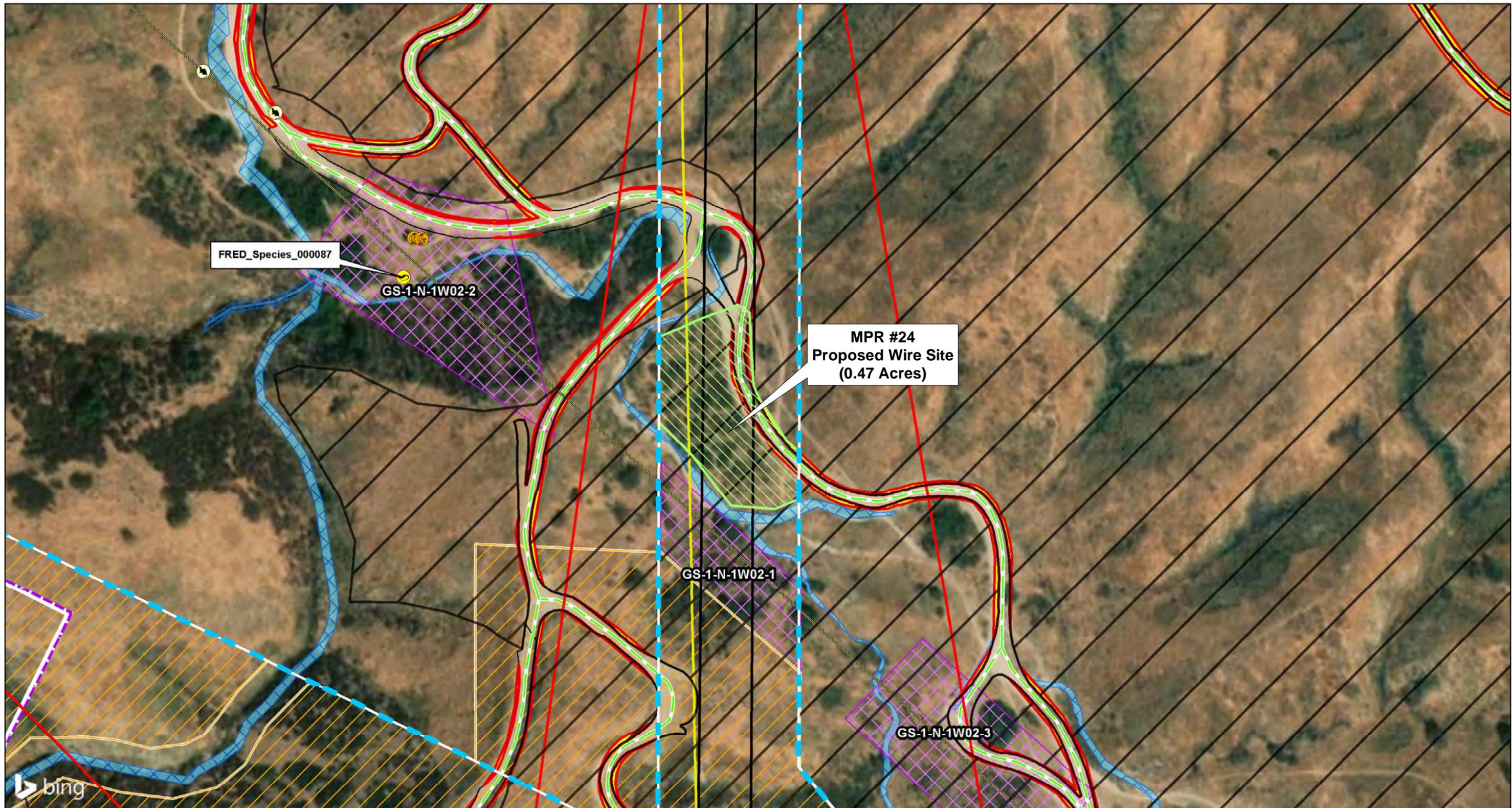
- Will modification involve substantial changes that will require major changes to the CEQA document?
 YES NO
- Will modification result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts?
 YES NO
- Additional agency notifications and/or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

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

[Empty box for conditions of approval or reasons for denial]

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: Jeff Miller Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/14/2019
- Environmental Inspector: FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/14/2019
- Land Agent: CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED
Name: James Spence Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/14/2019
- Environmental Compliance Lead: APPROVED APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (SEE CONDITIONS ABOVE) DENIED
Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/14/2019



LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPR #24 Proposed Wire Site (0.47 Acres) Major Trans Line Proposed Temporary Existing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subtransmission Lines Modify, OH Civil Access Roads Lines Existing Access Road Civil Access Road Areas Existing Road Edge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Road Widening Construction Areas Guard Pole Structure Work Area Wire Setup Approx. Existing T/L Corridor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-wetland Waters CDFW Jurisdiction USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction California Walnut San Diego Pocket Mouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Diegan Tiger (Coastal) Whiptail Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat |
|---|---|---|---|---|



FIGURE 1

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Proposed Wire Site
MPR #24