

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Project Date Approval Required: 8/8/2019 Variance Request No.: 30

Date Submitted: 8/1/2019 Location: Oak View Drive, north of Oak Valley Parkway and south of Fairway Drive in Beaumont; Existing access road from M1T1 to Diablo Road in Riverside County (see Description of Change and Justification section below and figures attached).

Landowner: City of Beaumont; Southern California Edison

Landowner Parcel Numbers: 668-100-005

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Developed/Disturbed

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: Desert Tortoise and Little Pocket Mouse habitat

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

Specify Source (e.g., Mitigation Measure B.5): NTP #4 Work Areas/Conditions

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CORRESPONDENCE OTHER: _____

Maraschino Tap - Existing Underground Cable Removal

Two temporary work areas are required on the west side of Oak View Drive, north of Oak Valley Parkway and south of Fairview Drive in Beaumont, to facilitate the removal of existing underground telecommunication cable from two existing manhole locations, as shown in Figure 1. The new work areas will be used to park construction vehicles along the concrete curb on the paved street and stage material and equipment adjacent to the existing manhole locations on the sidewalk and remove existing cable. No ground disturbance is required in the new work areas.

The temporary work areas each consist of approximately 0.03 acre of developed/disturbed land located in the public right of way in Beaumont, Riverside County.

Devers Tap - Existing Overhead Cable Removal

The existing access road from tower M1T1 east to Diablo Road is required to remove existing overhead telecommunication cable from existing poles along the access road, as shown in Figure 2. The new work area will be used to stage construction vehicles, material, and equipment along the existing access road, adjacent to the existing distribution poles and remove the overhead cable. No ground disturbance is required to improve the existing access road in the new work locations.

The work area associated with the cable removal consists of approximately 5,380 linear feet of developed/disturbed access road. The land is located within the existing SCE transmission line right-of-way in Riverside County.

Environmental Analysis

No impacts to regulated trees, jurisdictional waters, biological, or cultural resources are anticipated during the use of the new work areas.

Biological Resources

A desktop analysis was conducted for the new work areas using aerial imagery, publicly available data, and project biological data. The new work areas were covered during previous surveys, including FRED Preconstruction Survey IDs 000179, 000176, 000143, and 000142:

Desert Tortoise (DETO) – The new work area along the Segment 6 access road associated with the Devers Tap overhead cable removal is located within desert tortoise modeled habitat.

No DETO sign was observed in the area during preconstruction surveys. With clearance sweeps, mitigation measures, and monitoring, no impacts to DETO are anticipated in this area.

The Oak View Drive work areas (Figure 1) are not located within the range of the DETO; therefore, no impacts to DETO are anticipated at those locations.

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna – No special-status terrestrial herpetofauna were observed within the new work areas. However, many species have the potential to occur throughout the project area. Therefore, a preconstruction survey of each work area will be conducted prior to use. With implementation of the mitigation measures and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to special-status terrestrial herpetofauna are anticipated.

Burrowing Owl – Burrowing owl habitat is widespread in the project area. An adult burrowing owl (FRED Species Event 000121) was observed at a burrow during preconstruction surveys on March 19, 2019, approximately 105 feet north of supersite GS-6X14-6X15-1 and GS-6X14-6X15-2. Four fledgling burrowing owls (FRED Species Event 000212) attempting flight around the burrow (FRED Nest Event 000302) were observed on June 6, 2019. One burrowing owl (FRED Species Event 000201) was observed approximately 315 feet southwest of supersite GS-6X15-6S16-1. Active burrows (with sign) were previously detected within supersite 6X08, on the southern border of supersite 6X11, approximately 475 feet west of supersite 6X11, and a burrowing owl was also observed approximately 50 feet south of supersite 6X11. The buffer for FRED Nest Event 000302, which currently intersects the work area will be managed in accordance with the Burrowing Owl Management and Passive Relocation Plan.

If active burrows are identified within 300 feet of construction activities, potential impacts will also be addressed according to the Plan. With implementation of the mitigation measures and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to burrowing owls are anticipated.

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. No active nest buffers intersect the work areas at this time. Preconstruction surveys, including surveys for nesting birds during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31) will be conducted prior to the initiation of construction use in each area. If active nests are identified, avoidance buffers will be established in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP). With implementation of the NBMP, no impacts are anticipated.

Listed Riparian Birds – No suitable habitat for riparian birds (least Bell's vireo [LBVI]/Southwestern willow flycatcher [SWFL]) occurs within 500 feet of the new work areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

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 new work areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat – The new work areas are not located within suitable habitat for the species; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-status Bats – No suitable bat roosting habitat or buffers occur within the new work areas; 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, San Diego desert woodrat, and/or San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project area. Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. Little pocket mouse (including Los Angeles pocket mouse [LAPM] and Palm Springs pocket mouse [PSPM] subspecies) occupied habitat is widespread throughout Segment 6. Palm Springs pocket mouse was previously observed approximately 200 feet west of supersite 6X11. Palm Springs pocket mouse was also previously observed approximately

200 feet north and approximately 300 feet northwest of supersite 6X12. Since the work activities will occur within existing disturbed areas, however, no impacts to Palm Springs pocket mice are anticipated.

The project has been designed to minimize impacts to the extent feasible. Impacts will be further mitigated through implementation of the Special-status Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan and subsequent coordination with the CDFW. If any other special-status small mammal species are found during construction activities, potential impacts will also be addressed according to the Plan.

San Diego Desert Woodrat – Numerous active woodrat middens have been observed within the supersites and access roads adjacent to the new Segment 6 road work area (FRED Habitat Events 000381-000410; 000054-000058; 00020-000203, 000060; 000172-000173, 000114, and 000058; 000354, 000356, 000339, and 000263; 000081-000082, and 000056).

A 10-foot no-entry buffer was established around the midden using ESA signage and will also be implemented if other middens are found near the new work area. If construction determines avoidance of these buffers is not possible, a qualified biologist will relocate the midden in accordance with the Special Status Small Mammal Avoidance and Minimization Plan. Since the active access road is not suitable habitat for woodrat, no impacts are expected.

The Oak View Drive work areas (Figure 1) are not suitable habitat for special-status small mammals; therefore, no impacts are anticipated at those locations.

Special-status Plants – No special-status plants were observed within the survey areas. If special-status plants are later identified during clearance sweeps/monitoring, they will be avoided to the extent feasible. Unavoidable impacts to special-status plants will be addressed in accordance with the Special-status Plant Salvage and Relocation Plan.

Regulated Trees – No tree trimming, or tree removal is required for construction activities within the new work areas.

Jurisdictional Waters – Wetland and non-wetland jurisdictional features are located throughout the project area. No jurisdictional features intersect the new work areas. BMPs will be implemented in accordance with the Project SWPPP. A preconstruction survey of the work areas will be conducted prior to use. Therefore, no unpermitted impacts to jurisdictional waters are anticipated.

Cultural Resources

The new 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 for the new work areas were negative for cultural resources, except for one ineligible prehistoric site of lithic scatter located north of the Segment 6 access road between M0-T5(1) and M0-T4(1). ESA signage has been posted at the site in accordance with the CRMP, therefore the site will be protected in place. Williams, Audry. 2016. *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Transmission Line Upgrade Project*, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.

Paleontological Resources

The WOD Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) requires full-time, qualified paleontological construction monitoring in areas determined to have moderate (PFYC 3) to very high (PFYC 5) sensitivity. Sediments of unknown (PFYC U) sensitivity shall be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor on a part-time basis and geologic units with very low (PFYC 1) or low (PFYC 2) sensitivity may be spot checked to confirm paleontological sensitivity.

Per the PRMMP, *the types of construction activities that require monitoring or spot-checking include:*

- *Grading*
- *Drilling (if drill bit is greater than two feet in diameter)*
- *Excavation for retaining walls*
- *Excavation of construction areas*

Types of construction activities that will not require monitoring or spot-checking, regardless of paleontological sensitivity include:

- Small diameter drill holes (less than two feet in diameter)
- Pile driving
- Project activities that do not involve ground disturbance

No ground disturbance will occur in the new work areas during the removal of existing telecommunication cable, therefore no paleontological monitoring is required in the new work areas.

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT N/A

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: A preconstruction survey will be conducted prior to initiating work in each new work area. The new work areas were covered in FRED Preconstruction Survey IDs 000179, 000176, 000143, and 000142.

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:

If not in APE, attach new survey report.

The new 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 for the area were negative for cultural resources, except for one ineligible prehistoric site of lithic scatter located north of the Segment 6 access road between M0-T5(1) and M0-T4(1). ESA signage has been posted at the site in accordance with the CRMP, therefore the site will be protected in place. Williams, Audry. 2016. Cultural Resources Management Plan for Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Transmission Line Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.

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

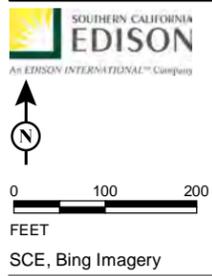
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AIR QUALITY | <input type="checkbox"/> LAND USE | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> NOISE | <input type="checkbox"/> VISUAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTAMINATED SOILS | <input 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.)



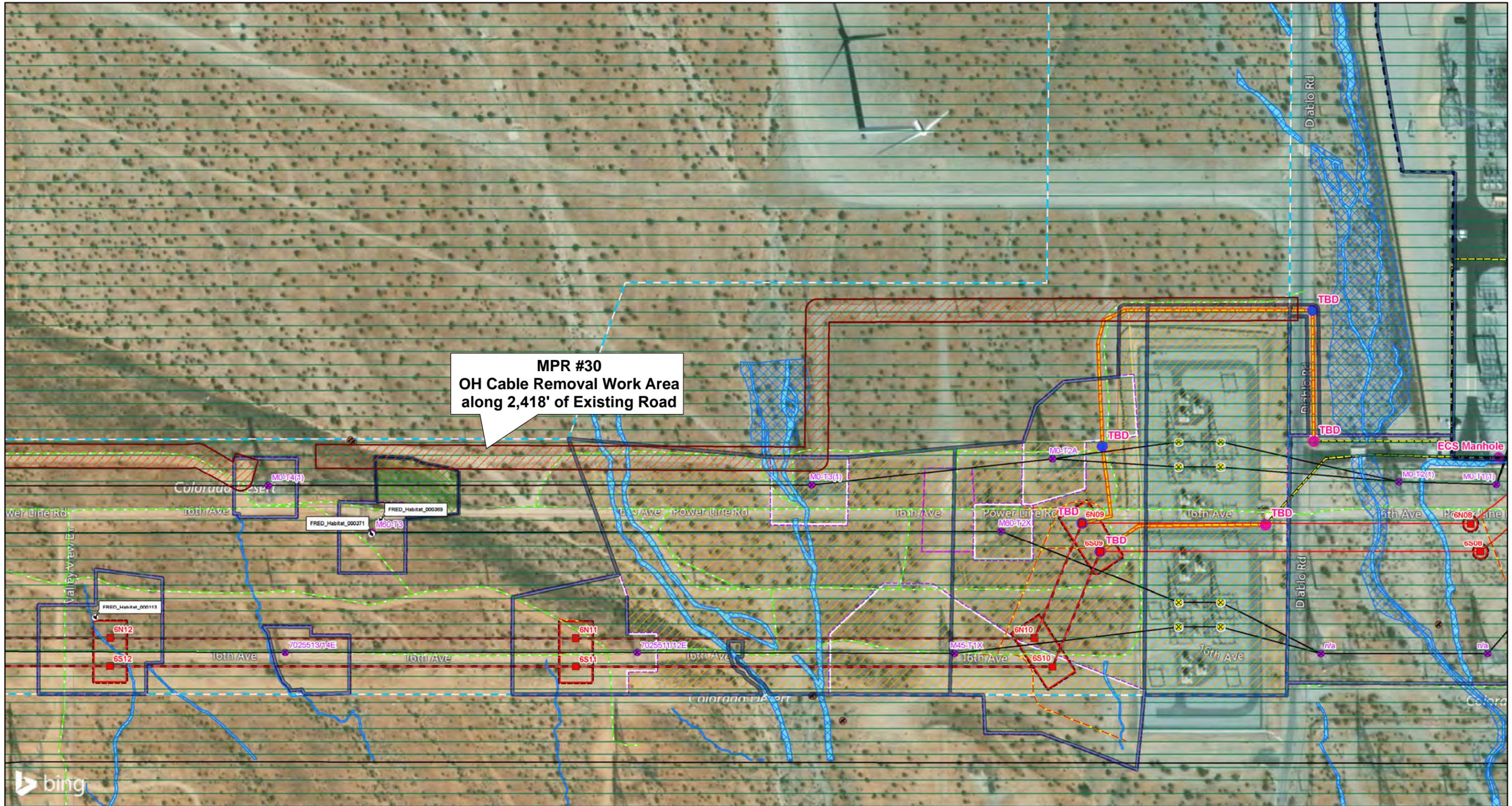
LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPR #30 Proposed Work Area Supersite Boundary <p>Major Trans Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Remove | <p>Major Trans Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Existing <p>Telecom Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed | <p>Telecom Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed, OPGW Proposed, UG Remove, UG <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Access Road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Access Road Existing ROW <p>Construction Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Disturbance Area O&M Tower Structure Work Area | <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDFW Jurisdiction USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction Common Raven (150ft Buffer) | <p>Suitable Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Suitable Habitat Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|



FIGURE 1

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Maraschino Tap Work Areas
MPR #30



**MPR #30
OH Cable Removal Work Area
along 2,418' of Existing Road**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company

0 100 200
FEET
SCE, Bing Imagery

LEGEND

<p>MPR #30 Proposed Work Area</p> <p>Supersite Boundary</p> <p>Major Trans Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Modify Remove 	<p>Major Trans Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Existing <p>Telecom Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Proposed 	<p>Telecom Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing, UG Proposed, OPGW Proposed, UG <p>Civil Access Roads Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Access Road 	<p>Existing Access Road</p> <p>Existing Substation Area</p> <p>Existing ROW</p> <p>Construction Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Work Site General Disturbance Area 	<p>Guard Pole</p> <p>O&M Tower</p> <p>Structure Work Area</p> <p>Wire Setup</p> <p>Non-wetland Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDFW Jurisdiction 	<p>USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert Woodrat (10ft Buffer) Burrowing Owl Desert Tortoise Modeled Habitat
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Map Index

FIGURE 3
Page 2

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
M1-T1 to Diablo Road Work Area
MPR #30