

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

**Project Date Approval Required:** 7/13/2020 **Variance Request No.:** 38

**Date Submitted:** 6/30/2020 **Locations:** North of 3N64 in Loma Linda; South of 2N14 in Loma Linda; Southeast of 2N16 in Loma Linda; South of 4S50 in Beaumont; East of 4X25 in Beaumont (see *Description of Change and Justification* section below and figures attached).

**Landowners and Associated Parcel Numbers:**

| Proposed Work Area                   | Property Owner     | Assessor's Parcel Number |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| WA_3_3N64_MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 1)  | City of Loma Linda | 0294-011-30              |
| WA-2-2N14-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 2)  | Leo Bus            | 0284-181-25              |
| WA-2-2N16-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 3)  | Leo Bus            | 0284-161-50              |
| MAC-4-4S50-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 4) | San Gorgonio Land  | 413-290-059              |
| GS-4-4X25-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 5)  | Pardee Homes       | 4080-900-45              |

**Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use:** Developed/Disturbed, Grassland/Forbland

**Existing Sensitive Resource?** NO  YES Specify: SKR suitable habitat, Coastal CAGN critical 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**WA 3 3N64 MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 1)**

As a result of heavy rains, a 1.24-acre temporary work area located north of Tower Site 3N64, requires erosion repairs to maintain slope stability. Drainage improvements including McCarthy drains, water bars, re-contouring, and rip-rap are required to repair existing erosional rills and features caused by offsite discharge to the upland area. Prior to riprap installation, loose or yielding soil will be over-excavated and re-compacted. A geotextile may be used for layer separation and the middle and upper section of major erosion features will be repaired with an engineered fill slope.

The new work area, shown on Figure 1, page 1, is located outside of the existing transmission line right-of-way, in area owned by the City of Loma Linda, consisting of approximately 1.23-acres of grassland/forbland and 0.01-acre of developed/disturbed land.

**WA-2-2N14-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 2)**

An additional 0.07-acre of temporary work space located immediately adjacent to the south side of SWA-2-2N14 is required to safely stage material and equipment associated with foundation wreck-out at M3-T2(2). The work area will be accessed from the existing access road in SWA-2-2N14, as shown on Figure 1, page 2.

The new work area may be leveled to facilitate the wreck-out using digger derrick trucks and other equipment associated with wreck-out activities.

The new work area is privately owned, consists of approximately 0.07-acres of grassland/forbland, and is located entirely within the SCE transmission line right-of-way in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

**WA-2-2N16-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 3)**

An additional 0.25-acre of temporary work space located immediately adjacent to the south side of SWA-2-2N16 is required to safely stage material and equipment associated with wreck-out activities at M2-T5(2). The work area will be accessed from the existing access road and SWA-2-2N16, as shown on Figure 1, page 3.

The new work area may be leveled to facilitate the wreck-out using digger derrick trucks and other equipment associated with wreck-out activities.

The new work area is privately owned, consists of approximately 0.15-acre Coastal Sage Scrub, 0.01-acre developed disturbed, and 0.09-acres of grassland/forbland, and is located entirely within the SCE transmission line right-of-way in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

**MAC-4-4S50-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 4)**

The installation of 2 McCarthy drains is required off the access roads in previously approved work area SWA-4-4X50. The McCarthy drains are required to capture and divert storm flow off the access roads downstream to uplands, as shown on Figure 1, page 4.

The total new permanent disturbance area of 0.004-acre is located within the previously approved and disturbed tower work area, in land that is privately owned within the SCE transmission line right-of-way, in the City of Beaumont.

**GS-4-4X25-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 5)**

A new temporary 0.17-acre work area is required east and adjacent to Supersite 4X25 to provide adequate work space for material and equipment staging during construction, including wire activities associated with Supersites 4X25 and 4X24, as shown on Figure 1, page 5.

The total temporary disturbance area consists of approximately 0.17-acre of developed/disturbed land (dirt access road) located within the SCE transmission line right-of-way in the City of Beaumont.

**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 000060; 000206, 000126; 000070; 000042; 000178.

**Desert Tortoise** – The new work areas are not located within the range of desert tortoise, therefore no impacts to the species are anticipated.

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

**Burrowing Owl** – Burrowing owl (BUOW) habitat in the form of annual and perennial grasslands and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation is present throughout the project area. No occupied burrows or associated buffers currently intersect the proposed work areas.

Active owl burrows observed during preconstruction surveys and during construction would be mitigated in accordance with the Burrowing Owl Management and Passive Relocation Plan. With implementation of mitigation measures, including appropriate avoidance buffers 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. For instance, Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) nest 000743 is located approximately 285-feet west of GS-4-4X25-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 5) approximately 100-feet above the ground, in the southeast corner of the middle arm in Tower M22-T1. The nesting substrate and the nest height provide partial visual and acoustic buffers from work sites below the nest.

None of the new work areas currently intersect nesting bird buffers. 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 in the new work areas. If active nests are identified, avoidance buffers will be established in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan. With implementation of mitigation measures, including appropriate avoidance buffers and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to nesting birds 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.

**Coastal California Gnatcatcher [CAGN]** – WA-2-2N14-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 2) and WA-2-2N16-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 3) are located within USFWS-designated Critical Habitat Unit 10 for coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN). Suitable CAGN habitat is located approximately 1,400-feet west of WA-2-2N14-MPR-38 and 100-feet north of WA-2-2N16-MPR-38. However, no CAGN birds or nests have been observed within the new work areas during previous preconstruction surveys or protocol surveys. Due to a history of negative CAGN survey results within the project area, San Bernardino County is considered unoccupied by CAGN at this time. Since the new work areas are comprised of grassland/forbland and developed/disturbed land, which are not breeding habitat for the species, and preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to use, no impacts to the species are anticipated.

To offset additional impacts to Critical Habitat subject to mitigation, unused portions of approved disturbance areas also located in CAGN critical habitat, within SWA-2-2N32 and GS-2-W-2N32, will be removed from the project data upon approval of this MPR. The final impact calculations for the project will account for these changes.

**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. Protocol aerial surveys conducted for the project in 2019 showed no golden eagle nests within 2 miles of the new work areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

**Stephens' Kangaroo Rat** – 0.97-acre of WA\_3\_3N64\_MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 1) is located with Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat (SKR). Suitable SKR habitat also exists to the east of MAC-4-4S50-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 4) and to the east of GS-4-4X25-MPR-38, but does not intersect the work areas. A habitat assessment, pedestrian surveys, and several consecutive years of trapping surveys have been conducted within SKR suitable habitat areas of the Project. 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.

To minimize temporal habitat loss, a portion of previously approved work area WSS-3-SBD-2, which was determined to no longer be necessary for construction, will be removed from the project data and avoided to offset mapped habitat impacts to WA\_3\_3N64\_MPR-38.

**Special-status Bats** – No suitable bat roosting habitat or buffers occur within the new work areas; therefore, no impacts to special-status bats 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 anticipated to occur within the project area.

Two desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*) middens (FRED Habitat Events 00946 and 00947) were observed on May 29, 2020 approximately 670-feet west of MAC-4-4S50-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 4). The existing 10-foot buffers will be avoided during construction activities associated with the work area and potential impacts to desert woodrat midden will be addressed in accordance with the Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan. With implementation of the plan, no significant impacts are anticipated.

An American badger (FRED Species Event 000242) was observed leaving the access road between Construction Areas 2X15 and 2X16 on July 11, 2019, approximately 550-feet east of WA-2-2N16-MPR-38 (Figure 1, page 3). A preconstruction survey of the new work area will be conducted prior to use. With implementation of mitigation measures and biological monitoring during construction, no significant impacts to special-status mammals are anticipated.

**Special-status Plants** – Two Yucaipa onions were observed approximately 140 feet northwest of tower 4N50 in May 2018. Yucaipa onions have been mapped for several of the past years at the peak of the blooming period. The cumulative data from many years of surveys has provided a reliable layer of occupied habitat for special-status plants. Yucaipa onion is addressed in the Narrow Endemic/Criteria Area Plant DBESP. The plants are flagged for avoidance and as a contingency, seed has been collected. If impacts are not avoidable, the bulbs will be salvaged. See Figure 1, page 4.

If special-status plants are later identified during preconstruction surveys/clearance sweeps/monitoring, they will also 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. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Jurisdictional Waters**

Wetland and non-wetland jurisdictional features are located throughout the project area. No jurisdictional features intersect the new work areas. ESA signs will be established at the edges of jurisdictional waters located outside the work areas and BMPs will be implemented in accordance with the SWPPP. No impacts to jurisdictional features are expected to result from use of the new work areas.

### **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 area were negative for cultural resources. *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. Prepared by Southern California Edison.*

### **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*

The following work area is located within an area of low PFYC 2 paleontological sensitivity, therefore, the site may be spot checked to confirm paleontological sensitivity if a hole larger than 2-feet in diameter is drilled or if grading is required:

The following work area is located within an area of moderate PFYC 3 paleontological sensitivity, therefore, the site requires full-time, qualified paleontological construction monitoring if holes larger than 2-feet in diameter are drilled or if grading is required:

- MAC-4-4S50-MPR-38

The following work areas are located within areas of very high PFYC 5 paleontological sensitivity, therefore, the sites require full-time, qualified paleontological construction monitoring if holes larger than 2-feet in diameter are drilled or if grading is required:

- WA-3-3N64-MPR-38

- WA-2-2N14-MPR-38

- WA-2-2N16-MPR-38

---

### 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 the new work areas. The new work areas were covered during active FRED Preconstruction Survey IDs 000060; 000206, 000126; 000070; 000042; 000178.

---

**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 work areas were negative for cultural resources. 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

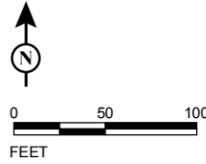
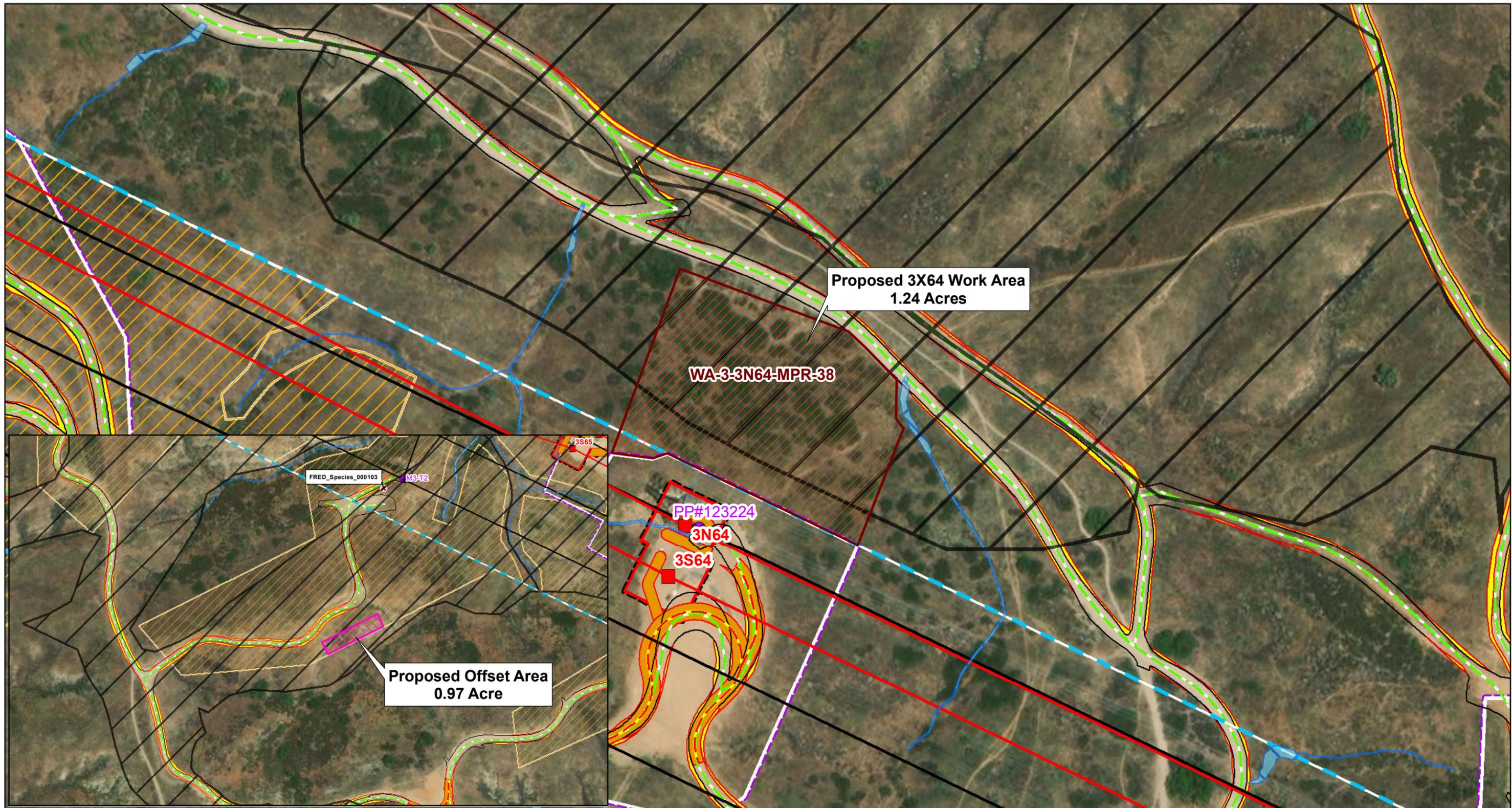
2. Will modification result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts?

YES     NO

3. Additional agency notifications and/or permit modifications required?     YES     NO

---





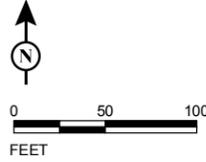
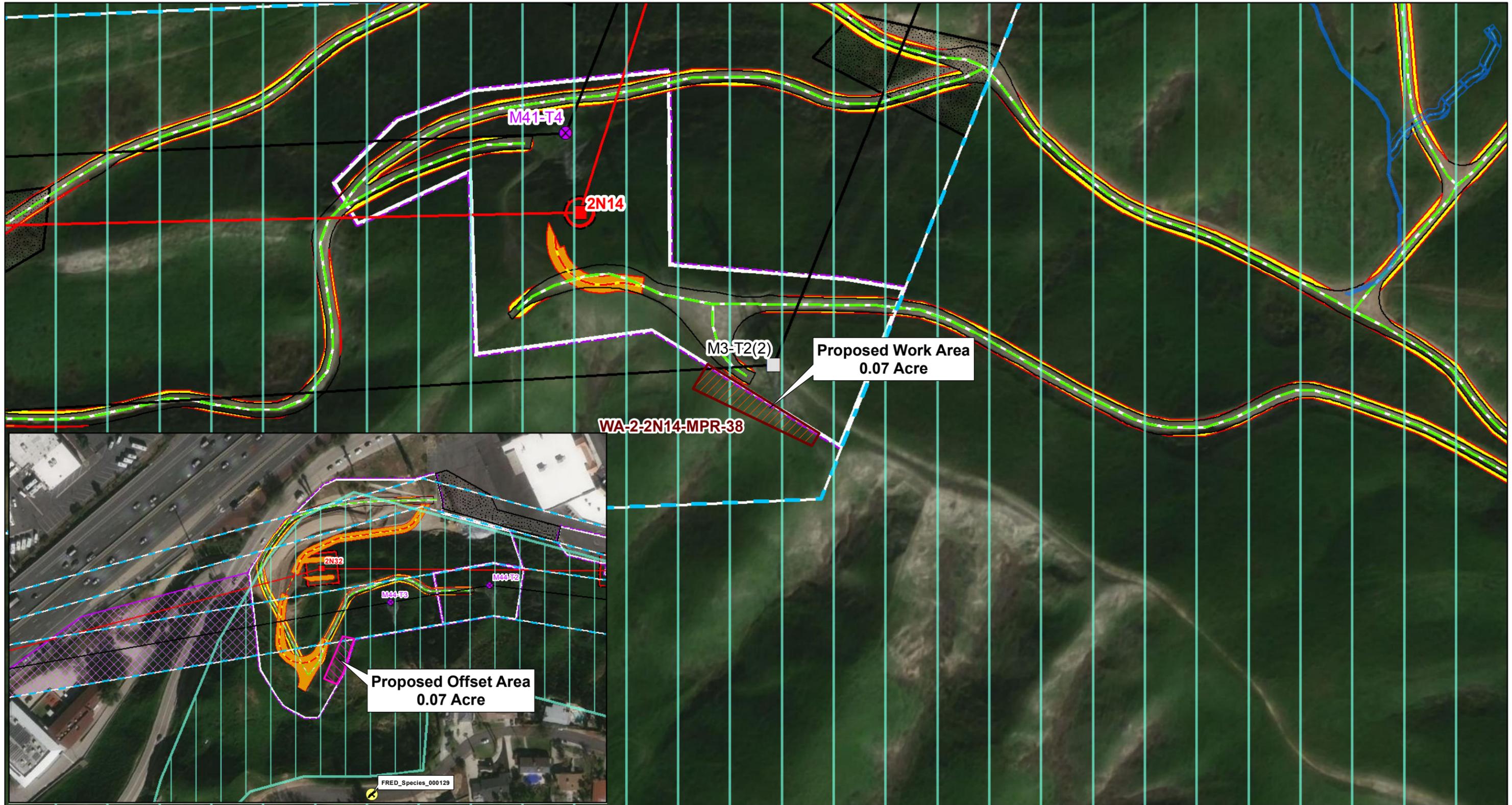
SCE, ESRI World Imagery

**LEGEND**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed MPR #38 Work Area</li> <li> Proposed Offset Area</li> <li> Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat</li> <li><b>Non-wetland Waters</b></li> <li> CDFW Jurisdiction</li> <li> USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Major Trans Structure</b></li> <li> Proposed</li> <li> Remove</li> <li><b>Major Trans Line</b></li> <li> Proposed</li> <li> Existing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Civil Access Roads Lines</b></li> <li> New Access Road</li> <li> Existing Access Road</li> <li><b>Civil Access Road Areas</b></li> <li> Existing Road Edge</li> <li> Designed Road Boundary</li> <li> Potential Road Widening</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Existing ROW</li> <li><b>Construction Areas</b></li> <li> O&amp;M Tower Area</li> <li> Structure Work Area</li> <li> Wire Setup</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|--|



FIGURE 1



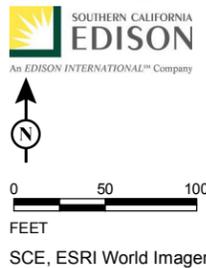
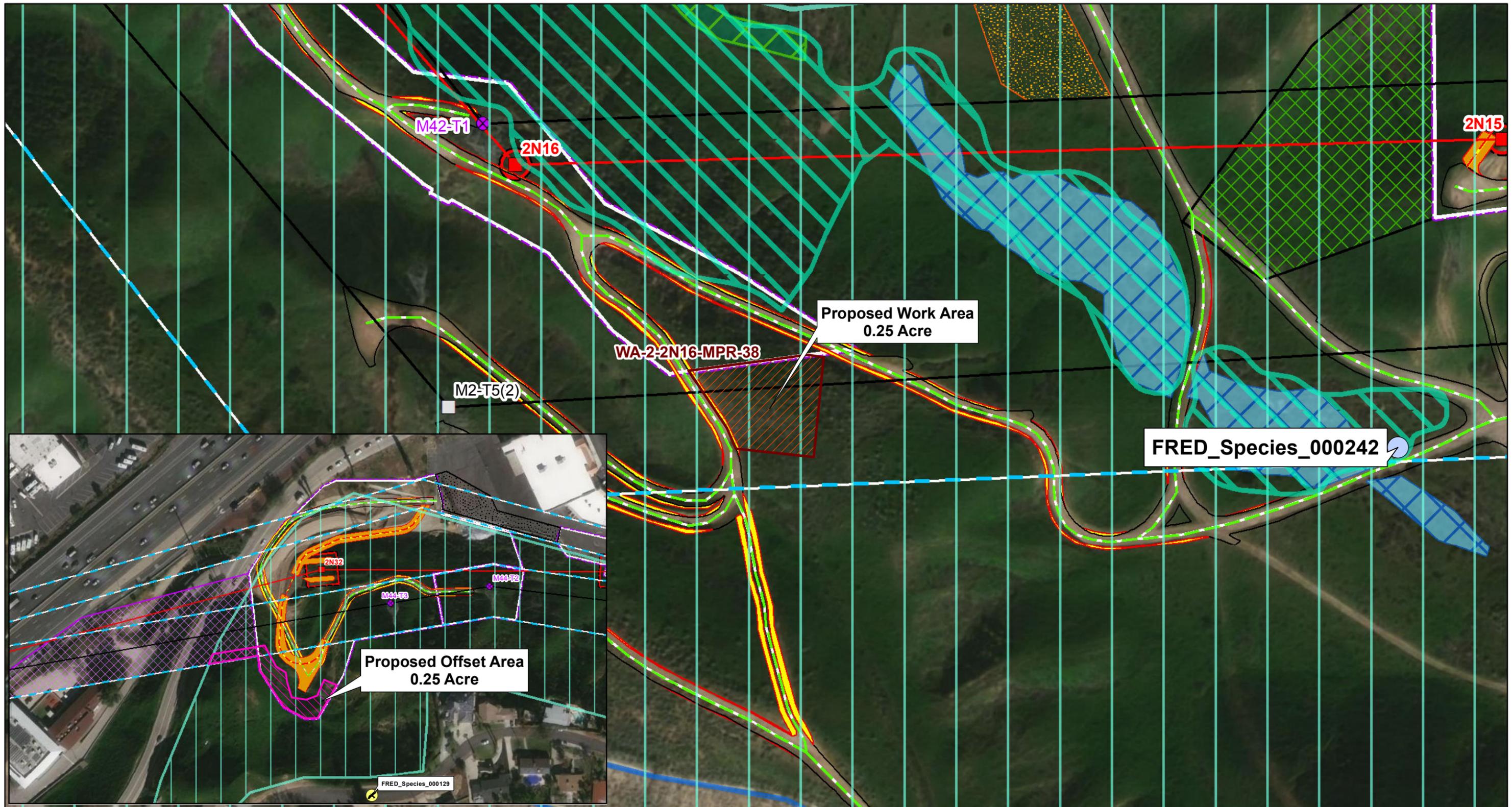
SCE, ESRI World Imagery

**LEGEND**

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed MPR #38 Work Area</li> <li> Proposed Offset Area</li> <li> Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat</li> <li> Non-wetland Waters</li> <li> CDFW Jurisdiction</li> <li> USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</li> </ul> | <p><b>Major Trans Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed</li> <li> Remove</li> <li> Existing</li> </ul> <p><b>Major Trans Line</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed</li> <li> Existing</li> </ul> | <p><b>Civil Access Roads Lines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> New Access Road</li> <li> Existing Access Road</li> </ul> <p><b>Civil Access Road Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Existing Road Edge</li> <li> Designed Road Boundary</li> <li> Potential Road Widening</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Existing ROW</li> </ul> <p><b>Construction Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Construction Work Site</li> <li> O&amp;M Tower Area</li> <li> Structure Work Area</li> <li> Work Area</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|---|



FIGURE 1



**LEGEND**

- Proposed MPR #38 Work Area
- Proposed Offset Area
- Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat
- Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat
- FRED Species Event**
- American Badger

- Non-wetland Waters**
- CDFW Jurisdiction
- USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction
- Wetland Waters**
- CDFW Jurisdiction
- USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction

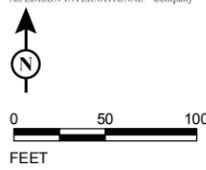
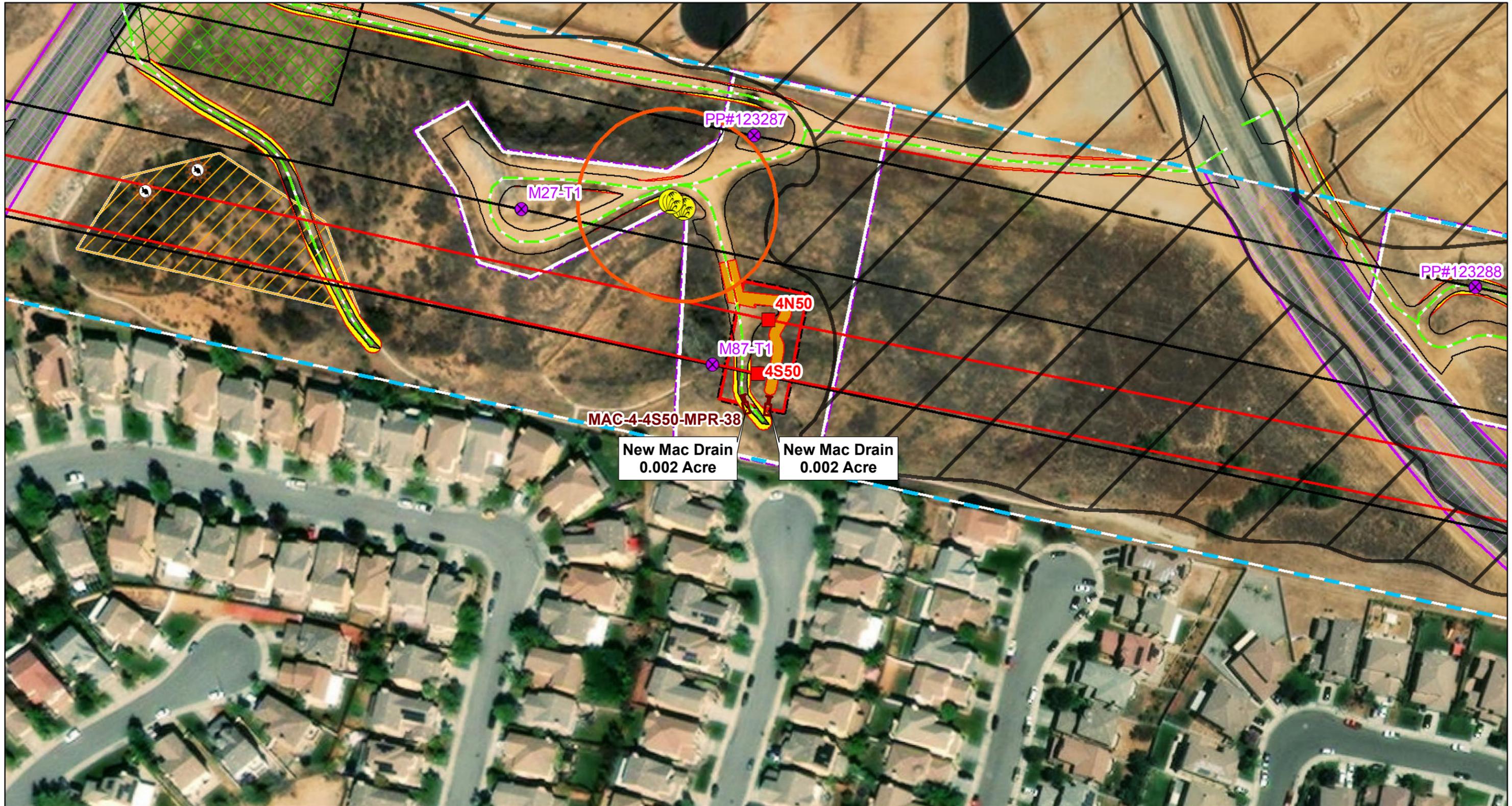
- Major Trans Structure**
- Proposed
- Remove
- Existing
- Major Trans Line**
- Proposed
- Existing

- Civil Access Roads Lines**
- New Access Road
- Existing Access Road
- Civil Access Road Areas**
- Existing Road Edge
- Designed Road Boundary
- Potential Road Widening

- Existing ROW
- Construction Areas**
- Construction Work Site
- General Disturbance Area
- O&M Tower Area
- Structure Work Area



FIGURE 1  
Page 3 of 5  
Southern California Edison West of Devers Upgrade Project  
Proposed Work Areas  
MPR #38



SCE, ESRI World Imagery

**LEGEND**

- New Mac Drain
- Proposed Offset Area
- Yucaipa Onion
- Yucaipa Onion Occupied Habitat
- Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat
- Desert Woodrat (10ft Buffer)

- FRED Habitat Events Buffer
- Desert Woodrat
- Major Trans Structure Proposed
- Major Trans Structure Remove

- Major Trans Line Proposed
- Major Trans Line Existing
- Civil Access Roads Lines New Access Road
- Civil Access Roads Lines Existing Access Road

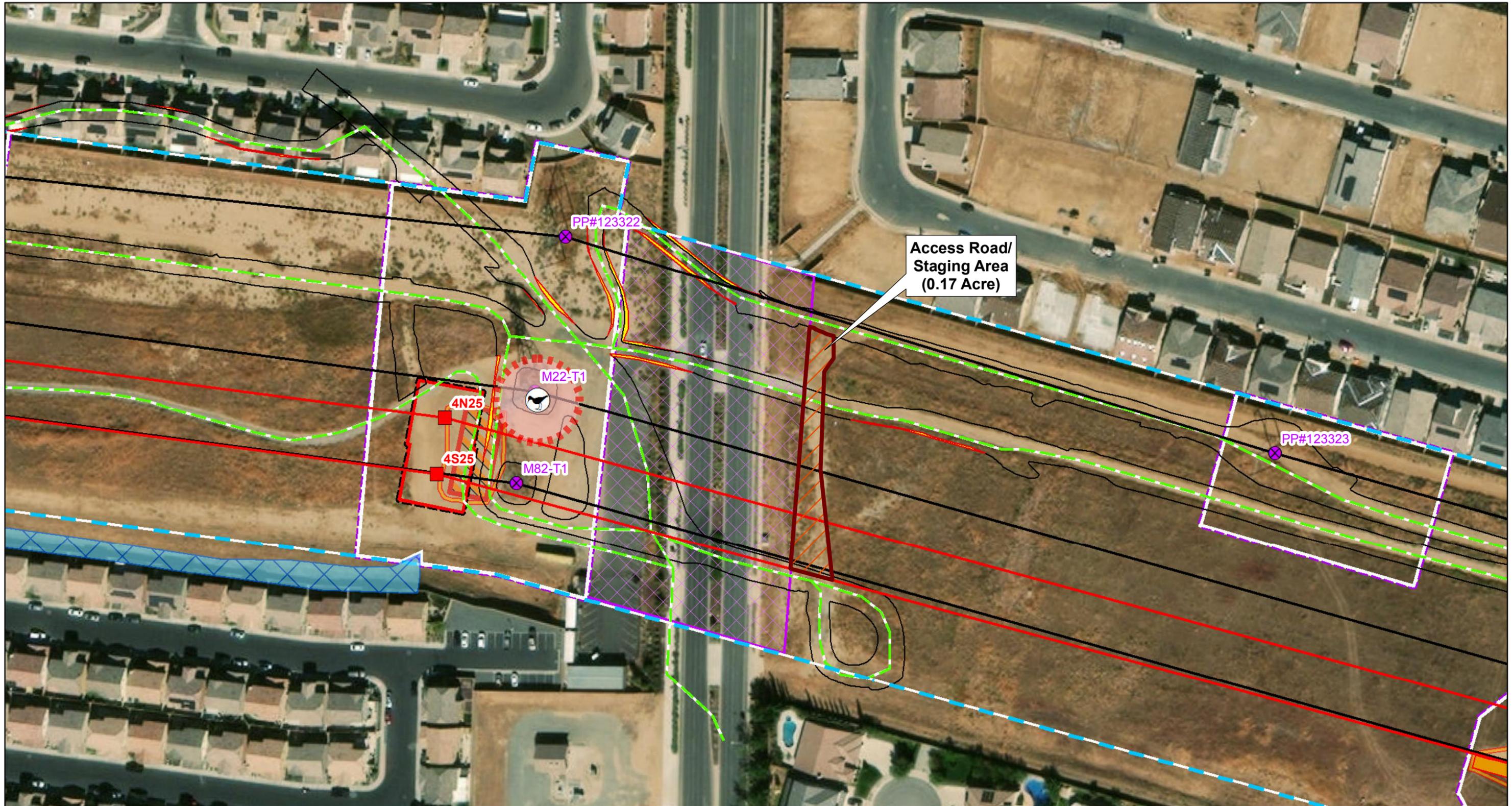
- Civil Access Road Areas Existing Road Edge
- Civil Access Road Areas Designed Road Boundary
- Civil Access Road Areas Potential Road Widening
- Civil Access Road Areas Existing ROW
- Construction Areas Construction Work Site

- Guard Pole
- O&M Tower Area
- Structure Work Area
- Wire Setup



FIGURE 1

\\gal\proj\SoCal\EDISON\493461\MapFiles\Plans\MPR\_38\_2020-06-09\Fig1\_MPR38\_Work\_Areas\_2020-06-22.mxd (6/24/2020)



0 50 100  
FEET  
SCE, ESRI World Imagery

**LEGEND**

- Proposed MPR #38 Work Area
- FRED Active Nest Event**
- Common Raven
- FRED Active Nest Buffer**
- Common Raven (150ft Buffer)
- Non-wetland Waters**
- CDFW Jurisdiction

- USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction
- Major Trans Structure**
- Proposed
- Remove
- Major Trans Line**
- Proposed
- Existing

- Civil Access Roads Lines**
- Existing Access Road
- Civil Access Road Areas**
- Existing Road Edge
- Designed Road Boundary
- Potential Road Widening
- Existing ROW

- Construction Areas**
- Guard Pole
- O&M Tower Area
- Structure Work Area
- Civil Disturbance Area**
- Permanent, Crane Pad
- Temporary, Grading Limit



FIGURE 1

\\galt\proj\SoCal\EDISON\493461\MapFiles\Plans\MPR\_38\_2020-06-09\Fig1\_TEWS25\_MPR38\_4X25\_Guard\_Structure\_2020-06-23.mxd (6/24/2020)