

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: February 18, 2021 Variance Request No.: 44

Date Submitted: February 16, 2021 Location: Southeast side of Supersite 3X51 in the City of Redlands, in San Bernardino County.

Proposed MPR Area	Property Owner	Assessor's Parcel Number
SWA-3-3X51-1-MPR-44 (Figure 1, Page 1)	Curti Family Trust 11-26-02	029407101

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Coastal Sage Scrub, Grassland Forbland

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: Mapped Stephens Kangaroo Rat Suitable 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 - Transmission

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

Attachments:

CONSTRUCTION DRAWING ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CORRESPONDENCE OTHER: MODIFICATION TO NTP #4
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SWA-3-3X51-1-MPR-44 (Figure 1, Page 1)

A new temporary 0.11 acre work area, adjacent to the southeast side of Supersite 3X51, is required to safely stage material and equipment required during wire wreck-out activities associated with M37-T2.

The new temporary work area will result in approximately 0.11 acre of temporarily impacted private property located within the SCE transmission line right-of-way, consisting of 0.102 acre grassland/forbland and 0.008 acre Coastal Sage Scrub.

Environmental Analysis

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

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. The MPR 44 work area was included within the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments, protocol, and focused surveys) and was also covered in FRED Preconstruction Survey ID 000057, as well as Survey ID 000244, conducted specifically for the new work area on 2/15/2021.

Nesting Birds – Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, including transmission structures, trees, shrubs, and the ground surface, are located throughout the ROW.

A preconstruction survey of the new work area, including a survey for nesting birds, was conducted on 2/15/21 during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31) in anticipation of the initiation of construction in the new work area. No active nests were identified during the survey. If active nests are identified during construction, 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

Areas of suitable habitat for riparian birds (LBVI/SWFL) are mapped on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road approximately 360 feet north of the access road entrance to towers 3N51/3S51; however, no suitable habitat is present within 500 feet of the new work area. No LBVI or SWFL individuals or nests have been observed within the supersite or the new work area during the course of the project.

No LBVI or SWFL were observed during the preconstruction survey on 2/15/2021. If active LBVI or SWFL nests are identified later within 500 feet of construction activities, avoidance buffers will be established and the nest monitored according to the Wildlife Noise Monitoring Plan. With implementation of nesting bird surveys during nesting season and project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Suitable habitat for CAGN is mapped approximately 25-feet north and west of the new work area. Protocol CAGN surveys were conducted in this area by CAGN permitted biologists, John Green and/or Steve Myers, on March 19, March 27, and April 3 in 2018. No CAGN birds or nests were detected in the new work area during protocol surveys. No CAGN birds or nests have been detected in the area during subsequent nesting bird surveys conducted during the course of the project. Furthermore, no CAGN were observed during the preconstruction survey on 2/15/2021.

Due to a history of subsequently negative CAGN survey results in the area, no impacts to CAGN are anticipated and the Project area in San Bernardino County is considered unoccupied by CAGN at this time. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with implementation of preconstruction surveys, sweeps, and mitigation measures.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

The new work area is located within an area mapped as suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR). A habitat assessment, pedestrian surveys, and trapping surveys were conducted in Segment 3 during the last trapping season in 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. However, to offset additional impacts to Critical Habitat subject to mitigation, the offset area shown in the detail on Figure 1, page 1 will not be used for construction. The offset area will be removed from the project data upon approval of this MPR.

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 black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project. Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. However, if any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the small mammals avoidance and minimization plan. The new work area is located outside the known range of the Palm Springs pocket mouse. There is no mapped suitable habitat for the Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM) within the survey area.

No special-status mammals were observed during the preconstruction survey on 2/15/2021. If any special-status small mammal species are found during construction activities, potential impacts will also be addressed according to the Special-status Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan.

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 Plants

No special-status plants have been previously observed within the new work area and none were observed during the preconstruction survey on 2/15/2021. 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.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl habitat is widespread in the project area. Burrowing owls only have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the new work area and no burrowing owls have been previously observed. No owl buffers intersect the new

work area. No burrowing owls, burrows, or sign were observed during the preconstruction survey on 2/15/2021. Active owl burrows observed during preconstruction sweeps and during construction will 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.

Desert Tortoise

The new work area is not located within the range of the species, therefore, no impacts to DETO 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 proposed work area. Protocol aerial surveys conducted for the project in 2019 also showed no golden eagle nests within 2 miles of the new work areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Regulated Trees

No tree trimming or tree removal is required for the proposed activities.

Special-status Terrestrial Herpetofauna

No special-status terrestrial herpetofauna have been observed within the new work areas during project related surveys. With biological monitoring and implementation of project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

Jurisdictional Waters

No jurisdictional waters intersect the new work area. With proper BMP implementation in accordance with the project SWPPP, no impacts to jurisdictional waters are anticipated.

Cultural Resources

The proposed 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.

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 new work area is located within an area of PFYC 3 Moderate paleontological sensitivity, however no excavation is anticipated, therefore no paleontological monitoring will be required.

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT N/A

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: FRED preconstruction survey report ID 000244 was prepared for the new work area on 2/15/2022.

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

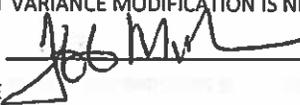
CEQA and Permitting: (Provide details for any "Yes" answer and attach additional information if needed.)

- 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.)

Required Signatures: (Attached email approvals may be used in lieu of signatures.)

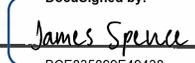
Chief Construction Inspector or Foreman: VARIANCE MODIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

Name: Jeff Miller Signature:  Date: 2/16/2021

Environmental Inspector: FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

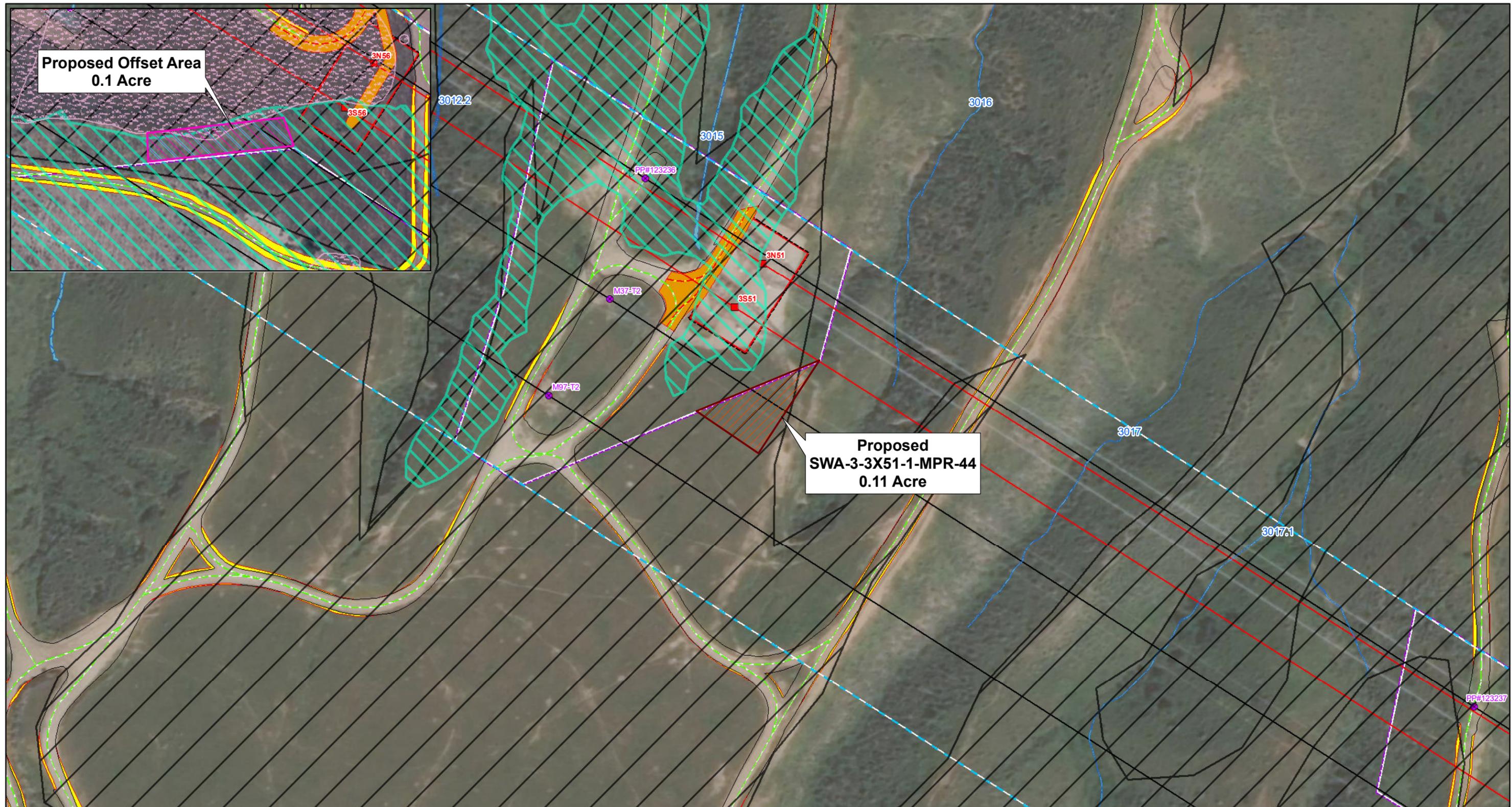
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: _____ Date: 2/16/2021

Land Agent: CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature:  Date: 2/16/2021

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

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: SG Date: 2/16/2021



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LEGEND			
	MPR #44 Work Area		Construction Areas
	Give Back Area		O&M Tower Area
	Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat		Structure Work Area
	Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat	Major Trans Structure	
	Non-wetland Waters		Proposed
	CDFW Jurisdiction		Existing
	USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction		New Access Road
		Major Trans Line	
			Proposed
			Existing
			New Access Road
		Civil Access Road Areas	
			Existing Access Road
			Existing Road Edge
			Designed Road Boundary
			Potential Road Widening
			Existing ROW



FIGURE 1

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Proposed Work Area
MPR #44