

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 7, 2021

Alex Gutierrez  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern California Edison  
8631 Rush St, General Office 4 – 235E (2nd Floor)  
Rosemead, CA, 91770

RE: West of Devers Upgrade Project: Minor Project Refinement #49

Dear Mr. Gutierrez,

On June 22, 2021, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Minor Project Refinement (MPR) #49 for the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District to transfer rock, sand, and gravel material from the Project Poultry Material Yard to the District's Cherry Valley Yard in Riverside County. Additional information was provided on July 1. The materials proposed for transfer are left over from transmission line activities approved under the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Notice to Proceed (NTP) #4, September 5, 2017, for the West of Devers Upgrade Project in the County of Riverside, California.

The CPUC voted on August 18, 2016, to approve SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project (Decision D.16-08-017) and a Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2014051041). The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the West of Devers Upgrade Project during implementation. The MMCRP also acknowledges that temporary changes to the project, such as final project design and engineering or need for addition workspace, are anticipated and common practice for construction efforts of this scale and that an MPR request would be required for these activities. This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this MPR, and that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested MPR activities.

MPRs are reviewed for consistency with CEQA requirements and are located within the geographic boundary of the project study area. MPRs do not create new or substantially more severe significant impacts, or conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy. Also, they do not trigger other permit requirements unless the appropriate agency has approved the change, and clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

MPR #49 for the transfer of rock, sand, and gravel is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

**SCE MPR Request.** Excerpts from the SCE MPR request and additional information provided are presented below (indented):

**MPR-49 Gravel/Rock Donation Site** Barnard Construction Company plans to transfer ownership of rock, sand and gravel material currently located and stored within the Poultry Yard, located at 30629 San Timoteo Canyon Rd, Redlands, CA 92373, to the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District (a special district in Riverside County, California) for transport to the District's Cherry Valley Yard, located at 37356 Cherry Valley Blvd, Cherry Valley, CA 92223 and more particularly described as Section 29 NW, Township T2S, Range R1W, Riverside County, State of California.

The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District will remove the rock, sand and gravel from the Poultry Yard and transport it to the Cherry Valley Yard following all applicable industry standards and local rules and regulations, including local storm water pollution and prevention requirements implemented during the transport, storage, and ultimate placement of the material at the Cherry Valley Yard.

Ultimately, the District plans to place the material in the Cherry Valley Yard within an established access road and on disturbed land. The north-south road has been recently graded and the east-west road location is disturbed and devoid of native vegetation. Impacts to an existing concrete culvert that crosses under an existing access road will be avoided.

Jacobs conducted a biological and jurisdictional water reconnaissance survey of the Cherry Valley Yard on June 18, 2021. Based on that survey, no impacts to biological resources or jurisdictional water features are anticipated from the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District's placement of materials exported from the Poultry Yard to the Cherry Valley Yard. The District has provided that no permits (i.e., grading, etc.) are required to accept this material.

### **CPUC Evaluation of MPR Request**

In accordance with the MMCRP, the subject MPR request was reviewed by CPUC to confirm that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested MPR activities and that the subject request was within the geographic boundary of the Project study area. Additionally, the CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit of the requested work area on June 29, 2021. The following discussion summarizes this analysis for agriculture, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, paleontological resources, traffic and transportation, and water resources.

**Agriculture:** No Important Farmland is located within the District's Cherry Valley Yard and the gravel placement area is located within an established access road and on disturbed land, so no impacts to agricultural lands would occur.

**Air Quality:** The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District will remove the rock, sand, and gravel from the WOD Poultry Material Yard and transport it to their Cherry Valley Yard following all applicable industry standards and local rules and regulations. The distance to the District's Yard from the Poultry Material Yard is approximately 8 miles. No additional impacts to air quality are anticipated with the District's transport and use of the gravel material, since the Project would have had to remove and dispose of the material, likely at the local land fill approximately 7.5 miles from the Poultry Material Yard.

**Biological Resources:** A desktop analysis was conducted for the gravel placement site using aerial imagery and publicly available data. As the Cherry Valley Yard and associated gravel placement site are located outside of the Project ROW, no Project biological data is available. A site assessment was conducted on June 18, 2021, to document general field conditions and identify any biological or jurisdictional constraints present.

The Cherry Valley Yard is a rural developed area surrounded by dirt access roads, livestock pens, agricultural fields, disturbed open areas, and rural residences. The gravel placement area is located within an established access road and on disturbed land. The north-south road has been recently graded and the east-west road location is disturbed and devoid of native vegetation. A riverine feature identified in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) intersects the north-south access road. However, the current extent of the feature crosses under the road approximately 30 feet north of its original NWI mapped location. Water is channeled under the access road via a concrete pipe from sheet flow primarily from the constructed dirt roads to the east. Water exits in a southwest direction and, within a few feet of exiting the concrete pipe, returns to sheet flow along a west-traveling dirt road. As a result of active road maintenance and adjacent agricultural activities the feature no longer exists as originally mapped in the

NWI. Because water is entering and exiting as sheet flow, the feature currently lacks any of the typical jurisdictional markers (bed and bank, soil sorting, wetland vegetation, etc.) on either side of the concrete pipe installed under the road. Therefore, no impacts will occur with the placement of the gravel on the dirt road as the feature has been altered due to land development and water passage east to west under the road within the concrete pipe.

Both the source location of the gravel (Poultry Material Yard) and the gravel placement site at the Cherry Valley Yard fall within the same weed zone (Weed Zone A).

SCE has confirmed that the Beaumont Cherry Valley Recreation and Parks District will comply with the Mitigation Measures for the West of Devers Project. In addition, no excavation will be required at the material distribution site since the materials will be placed on top of the existing road surface.

Desert Tortoise (DETO): The gravel placement site is located outside the range of the species and no modeled habitat is present.

Special-Status Terrestrial Herpetofauna: No special-status terrestrial herpetofauna were observed within the gravel placement site. No impacts are anticipated.

Burrowing Owl (BUOW): BUOW habitat in the form of annual and perennial grasslands and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation is present in the vicinity of the gravel placement site. However, no BUOW or burrows were observed during the site assessment, and neither are expected to occur within the graded, bare gravel placement site. Therefore, no impacts to BUOW 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 in the area. No active nests were observed during the site assessment and placement of the gravel would occur within existing disturbance areas generally void of nesting opportunities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Listed Riparian Birds: No suitable or occupied habitat for least Bell's vireo or Southwestern willow flycatcher is located within 500 feet of the gravel placement site. Therefore, no impacts to riparian birds are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher (CAGN): No suitable or occupied habitat for CAGN is located within 500 feet of the gravel placement site. Therefore, no impacts to CAGN are anticipated.

Golden Eagle (GOEA): Based on habitat assessments, limited suitable nesting habitat for GOEA was identified within 2 miles of the Cherry Valley Yard. Protocol aerial surveys conducted for the project in 2019 showed no golden eagle nests exist within 2 miles of the Project ROW. No impacts to GOEA are anticipated.

Stephen's Kangaroo Rat (SKR): No suitable habitat for SKR occurs within the gravel placement site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-Status Bats: No suitable bat roosting habitat occur within the gravel placement site; 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 the vicinity of the gravel placement site. Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. The gravel placement site is located outside the known range of the Palm Springs pocket mouse. No suitable habitat for the Los Angeles pocket mouse occurs within the gravel placement site or surrounding vicinity.

No special-status small mammals were observed during the site assessment, and none are expected to occur within the graded, bare gravel placement sites. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Special-Status Plants: No special-status plants were observed during the site assessment. The gravel placement site is graded and devoid of vegetation. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Regulated Trees: No regulated trees were observed during the site assessment; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Jurisdictional Waters: As discussed above, the NWI feature has been heavily altered and water passes under the access road (i.e., gravel placement site) via a concrete pipe. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

**Cultural Resources**: The materials will be placed on top of the existing road/disturbed ground surface, so no excavation will be required at the District's Cherry Valley Yard. No impacts to cultural resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

**Geology and Soils**: The materials will be placed on top of the existing road/disturbed ground surface, so no excavation will be required at the District's Cherry Valley Yard. No impacts to geology and soils will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**: Other than fueling of vehicles used by the District to transport the subject material, no other hazardous materials will be involved in the material transport or distribution within the District's Yard. No additional impacts from hazards or hazardous materials will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

**Paleontological Resources**: The materials will be placed on top of the existing road/disturbed ground surface, so no excavation will be required at the District's Cherry Valley Yard. No impacts to paleontological resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

**Traffic and Transportation**: The distance to the District's Yard from the Poultry Material Yard is approximately 8 miles. No additional impacts to traffic and transportation are anticipated to the transportation network, since the Project would have had to remove and dispose of the material, likely at the local land fill approximately 7.5 miles from the Poultry Material Yard, using most of the same roadways.

**Water Resources**: The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District will remove the rock, sand, and gravel from the Poultry Material Yard and transport it to their Cherry Valley Yard following all applicable industry standards and local rules and regulations, including local storm water pollution and prevention requirements implemented during the transport, storage, and ultimate placement of the material at the Cherry Valley Yard. No additional impacts to water resources are anticipated with the implementation of this MPR.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen