

Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: August 23, 2021 Variance Request No.: 50

Date Submitted: August 18, 2021 Location: Southeast of 2N12 in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

Features, Landowners, Associated Parcel Numbers:

Proposed Work Area	Property Owner	Assessor's Parcel Number
SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50	Leo R. Beus	0284-181-25

Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use: Coastal Sage Scrub

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO YES Specify: Mapped Coastal California Gnatcatcher 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 - 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-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 - (Figure 1, page 1)

The grading limit, previously approved in MPR #43, will be expanded north of SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-43 to provide 0.02-acre of temporary work space to McCarthy Drain work limit MWL-2-SE-2N12-1, to facilitate the installation of the McCarthy drain, as shown in Figure 1, page 1. The expanded work area will be used to safely stage material, equipment, and personnel during the installation.

The proposed work space is located immediately north of the SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-43 supersite, on private property situated entirely within the SCE transmission right-of-way (ROW) utility corridor in Loma Linda, San Bernardino County.

Environmental Analysis

No additional impacts to regulated trees, biological resources, or cultural resources are anticipated during construction in the new work area (Figure 1, page 1).

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. SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 included within the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments, protocol, and focused surveys).

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 was also covered during the following project preconstruction survey:

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 - (Figure 1, page 1)	FRED Preconstruction Survey ID #000242
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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.

Preconstruction surveys, including surveys for nesting birds will be conducted during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31) prior to the initiation of construction in the new work area. 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

The new work area is not located within 500-feet of listed riparian bird habitat. With implementation of nesting bird surveys during nesting season and project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 is located within mapped USFWS-designated Critical Habitat Unit 10 for Coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) as shown on Figure 1, page 1.

Protocol surveys in this area occurred in March, April and May of 2018. No CAGN were observed within this area during 2018 protocol surveys. Furthermore, no CAGN were detected within CAGN habitat during the July 2019 survey. 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. If active CAGN nests or breeding territories are later identified within 500 feet of construction activities, avoidance buffers will be established and the nests will be monitored in accordance with the Wildlife Noise Monitoring Plan.

To offset additional impacts to Critical Habitat subject to mitigation in the new 0.02-acre work area, the area shown in the detail of Figure 1, page 1, north of 2N15 (also located in critical CAGN habitat), will not be used for construction. The offset area will be removed from the project data upon approval of this MPR.

Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with implementation of preconstruction surveys and mitigation measures.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

SWA-2-2N12-2-MPR-50 is not located within the range of the species, therefore no impacts to SKR are anticipated.

Special-status Small Mammals

The proposed work location does not intersect mapped suitable habitat for special-status mammal habitat. 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 area, however Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected. If any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the small mammals avoidance and minimization plan.

Special-status Bats

No suitable bat roosting habitat or buffers occur within the proposed work location, therefore, no impacts to special-status bats are anticipated.

Special-status Plants

The proposed work area does not intersect special-status plant habitat and no observations of special-status plants have been observed in the proposed work locations over several years of surveys, therefore no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated. If special-status plants are later identified during clearance sweeps/survey/monitoring, they will be avoided to the extent feasible. Unavoidable impacts 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 proposed work area. No owl buffers currently intersect the work area. Active owl burrows observed during preconstruction surveys 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 proposed work area is not located within the range of desert tortoise, 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 area. 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 area during project related surveys. However, a Red Diamond Rattlesnake (FRED Species Event 000586) was observed approximately 300 feet northwest of SWA-2-2X12-2-MPR-50 (Figure 1, page 1). With biological monitoring and implementation of project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

Jurisdictional Waters

Non-wetland feature 2057.1 intersects SWA-2-2X12-2-MPR-50, as shown in Figure 1, page 1. Figure 2 illustrates that 168 square feet of temporary impacts and 12 square feet of permanent impacts are permitted by CDFW in the 1602 LSAA for this water feature. Figure 3 illustrates that 75 square feet of temporary impacts and 4 square feet of permanent impacts are permitted by USACE in the 404 NWP for this water feature. The location and size of this McCarthy drain have not changed since it was originally designed and permitted.

The new temporary impacts to the jurisdictional water feature associated with MPR 50 expansion area SWA-2-2X12-2-MPR-50 are 51.53 square feet. The LSAA, 404 NWP, and 401 WQC have been amended to permit the new impacts shown in Figure 1, page 1. Therefore, no additional non-permitted impacts to jurisdictional features are anticipated.

Cultural Resources

The proposed work area and project components are located within the WOD APE and were 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

Below is the associated PFYC class for the MPR 50 work area:

Resources:

Biological NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT N/A

New Survey Report Attached: YES NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: The MPR 50 work area was covered in FRED preconstruction Survey ID #000242.

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

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference:

The proposed MPR 50 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.)

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.)

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: JM Date: 8/17/2021

Environmental Inspector: FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

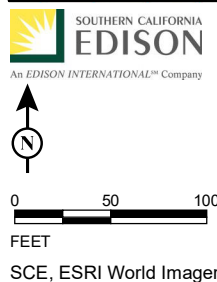
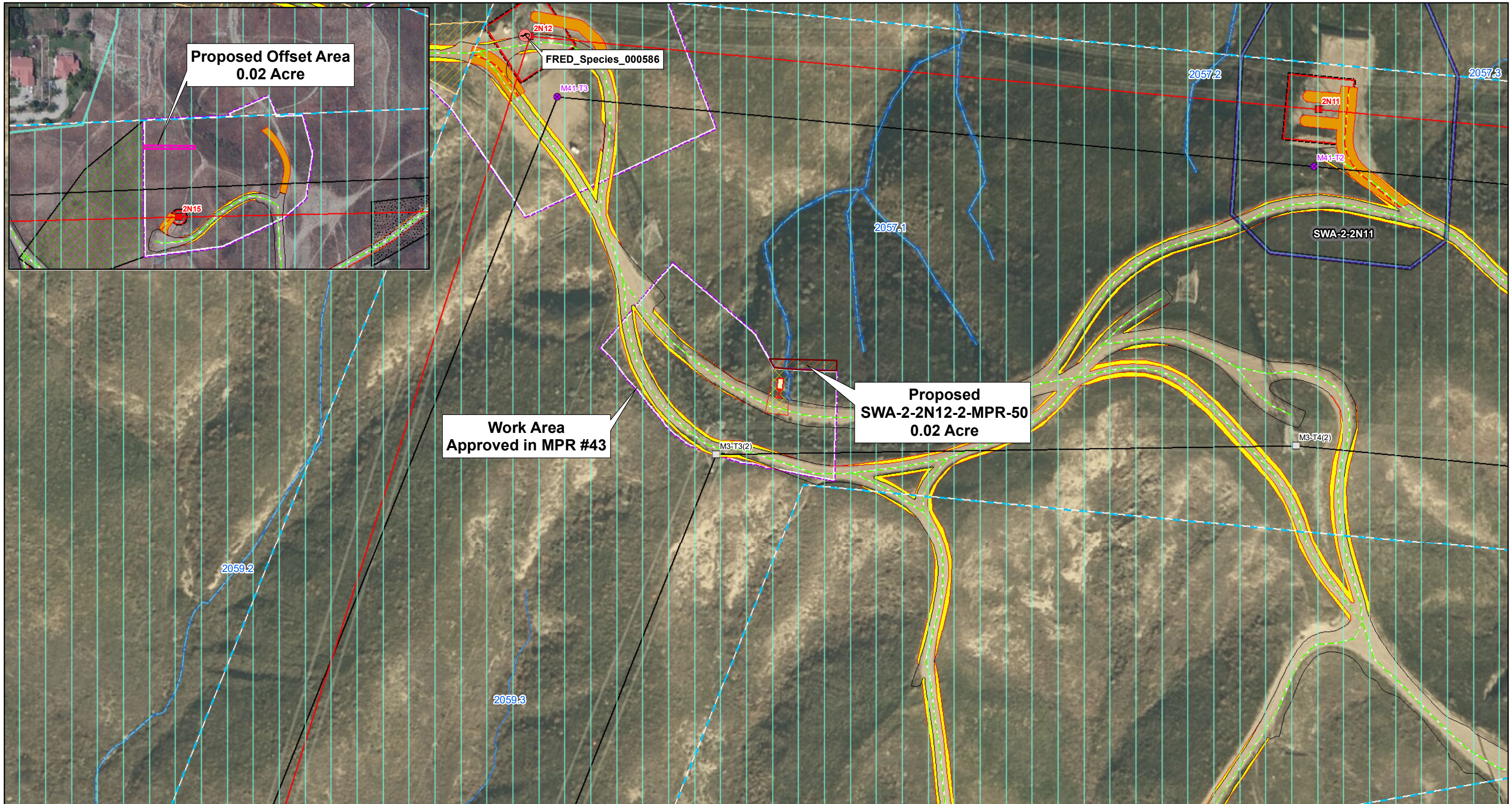
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: *Lisa Amador* Date: 8/17/2021

Land Agent: CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature: JS Date: 8/17/2021

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

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: *Sylvia Granados* Date: 8/17/2021



SCE, ESRI World Imagery

LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPR #49 Work Area Give Back Area Supersite Boundary Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat FRED Species Event Red Diamond Rattlesnake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-wetland Waters CDFW Jurisdiction USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction Major Trans Structure Proposed Remove Existing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Trans Line Proposed Existing Civil Access Roads Lines New Access Road Existing Access Road Civil Access Road Areas Existing Road Edge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed Road Boundary Potential Road Widening Existing ROW Construction Areas O&M Tower Area Structure Work Area Wire Setup | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Civil Drainage Area Permanent, New, Gabion Permanent, New, Mac Drain Single Civil Disturbance Area Temporary, Civil Work Limits |
|---|---|--|---|---|

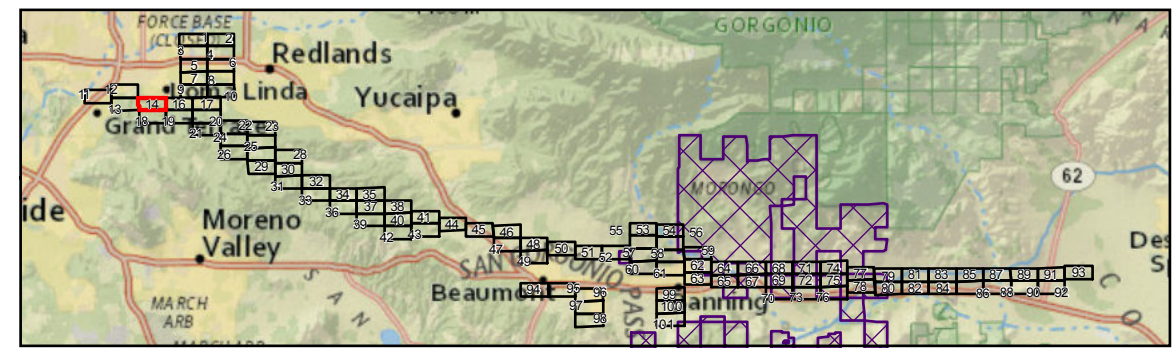


FIGURE 1
Page 1

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Work Area
MPR #50



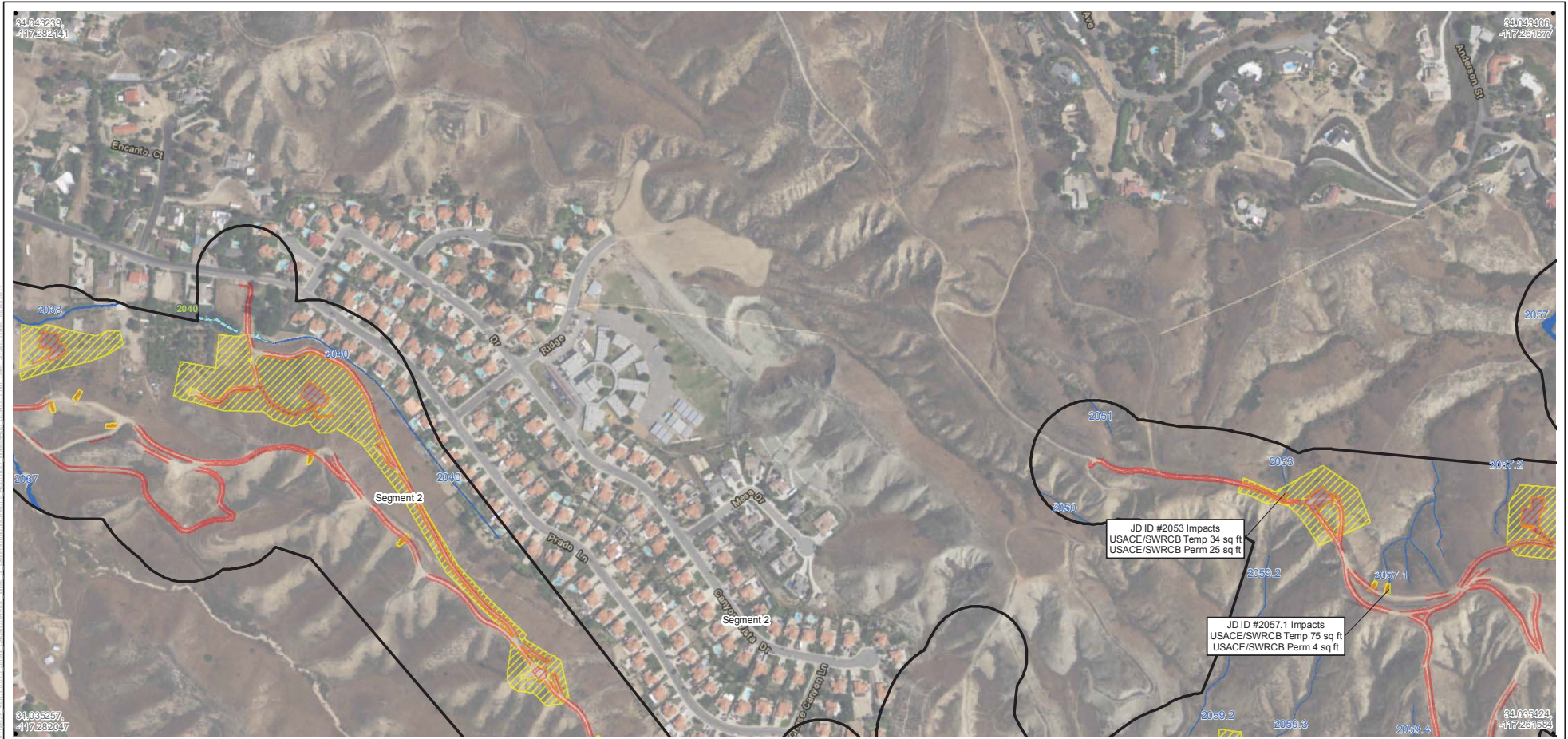
- Legend**
- Delineation Area
 - Temporary Impacts
 - Wetland Aquatic Resources
 - Nonwetland Aquatic Resources
 - Permanent Impacts
 - Wetlands (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)
 - Streambed (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)
 - Streambed (CDFW Only)



Source: ICF; SCE; ESRI 2017; USDA NAIP Image 2016;
Revised by ICF: 12/15/2017



Figure 3 Sheet 14
Southern California Edison - West of Devers Upgrade Project
CDFW Jurisdictional Waters Impact Maps



- Legend**
- Delineation Area
 - Temporary Impacts
 - Permanent Impacts
 - Wetland Aquatic Resources
 - Nonwetland Aquatic Resources
 - Wetlands (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)
 - Streambed (CDFW/SWRCB/USACE)

Source: ICF, SCE, ESRI 2017; USDA NAIP Image 2016;
 Revised by ICF: 10/20/2017

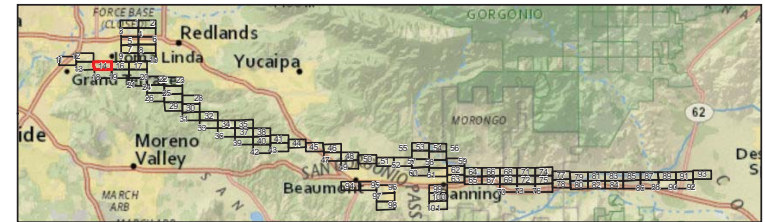
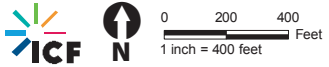


Figure 3 Sheet 14
Southern California Edison - West of Devers Upgrade Project
USACE/SWRCB Jurisdictional Waters Impact Maps



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 14, 2021

Hazem Gabr
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove
Rosemead, CA 91770

Amendment of Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification No. 1600-2017-0064-R6, West of Devers Upgrade Project

Dear Mr. Gabr:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has received your request to amend Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2017-0064-R6 (Agreement) and the required fee in the amount of \$447.25 for a minor amendment. Your request to amend the Agreement includes a change in the project description. Your request includes the installation of a new McCarthy drain to provide sufficient erosion control and diversion of flows off of the existing dirt access road. The installation of the McCarthy drain is anticipated to require a temporary work area of approximately 0.02-acres. The additional work is related, and immediately adjacent, to authorized road improvements within non-wetland feature 2057.1, located south of Loma Linda (34.036958°N, -117.263832°W).

CDFW hereby agrees to amend the agreement as requested. All conditions in the Agreement remain in effect. Copies of the Agreement and this amendment must be readily available at project worksites and must be presented when requested by a CDFW representative or agency with inspection authority.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marina Barton, Environmental Scientist at (909) 948-9632 or by email at Marina.Barton@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

8091B1A9242F49C...

Scott Wilson
Environmental Program Manager

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marina Barton, Environmental Scientist
Inland Deserts Region
Marina.Barton@wildlife.ca.gov

Amador, Lisa/LAC

Subject: West of Devers 404 NWP minor amendment

From: Szijj, Antal J CIV USARMY CESPL (USA) <Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:36 AM

To: Jason Lambert <Jason.Lambert@sce.com>

Subject: (External):RE: West of Devers minor amendment

***** EXTERNAL EMAIL - Use caution when opening links or attachments *****

Hi Jason,

After reviewing the proposed changes, I have determined the project would continue to comply with the previously issued NWP verification. No additional permitting or review is required.

Thanks for notifying us.

Antal

Antal Szijj
Lead Ecologist
Regulatory Division, Ventura Field Office
60 South California Street, Suite 201
Ventura, CA 93001

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District antal.j.szijj@usace.army.mil

Office: (805) 585-2147

Cell: (805) 320-6247

visit our website at: <http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

During the Coronavirus Health Emergency, Regulatory Program staff are teleworking. Please do not mail hard copy documents to any Regulatory staff or office. For further details on corresponding with us, please view our COVID-19 special public notice at:

https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/docs/publicnotices/COVID19%20Regulatory_SPN.pdf?ver=2020-03-19-134532-833

Please be advised that automatic out-of-office email replies have been disabled per DoD policy and we are unable to send an automated email response when away from the office. If you call my voicemail will indicate any extended absence and alternate POC.

Assist us in better serving you!

You are invited to complete our customer survey, located at the following link:

<https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>

Note: If the link is not active, copy and paste it into your internet browser.

Amador, Lisa/LAC

Subject: WOD 401 WQC Deviation - MPR 50

From: Reed, Brendan@Waterboards <Brendan.Reed@Waterboards.ca.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 7:08 AM

To: Jason Lambert <Jason.Lambert@sce.com>

Subject: (External):RE: WOD Amendment

***** EXTERNAL EMAIL - Use caution when opening links or attachments *****

Hello Jason,

Thank you for the revised request. This Certification Deviation is approved. As noted on the deviation request, all Certification conditions and requirements, including XIV.H. - Mitigation for Temporary Impacts, apply to the new work area.

Regards,
Brendan Reed