

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

Date Approval Required: December 27, 2021 Variance Request No.: 52

Date Submitted: December 20, 2021 Location: Supersite 3N03 in unincorporated Riverside County; Supersite 3X35 in Redlands, Riverside County; Supersite 4N34 in Beaumont, Riverside County.

## Landowners and Associated Parcel Numbers:

Proposed MPR Area	Property Owner	Assessor's Parcel Number
WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 1)	RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE	413-180-008
WA-3-3X35-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 2)	HARRIS, MURRAY T	473-030-040
WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 3)	CREEK, NOBEL MEADOWS	400-250-008

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

Existing Sensitive Resource? NO  YES Specify: Mapped CAGN 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

#### WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 1)

A new permanent impact area (0.005-acre) is required along the north side of supersite 3N03, inside the previously approved supersite, for the installation of 20' x 10' x 12" rip-rap apron to control erosion along the flow line, as shown in Figure 1, page 1. In addition, a water bar, swale and gabion baskets will be installed within the previously approved work area to divert run-off from the pad to the rip rap apron and existing McCarthy drain while controlling erosion.

The new permanent disturbance area consists of 0.005-acre of chaparral vegetation located within the previously approved temporary work area, on public property within the SCE ROW utility corridor.

#### WA-3-3X35-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 2)

A new temporary work area (0.07 acre) is required along the existing east access road to 3X35, extending outside of the previously approved supersite, for the installation of 20' x 10' x 12" rip-rap apron to control erosion along the flowline from the existing McCarthy Drain, as shown in Figure 1, page 2. The rip rap installation will be a at least 12-inches thick consisting of 6 to 8-inch river rock placed along the flowline at a width of approximately 5-feet minimum.

The new disturbance area consists of 0.021-acre of Coastal Sage Scrub and 0.051-acre grassland/forbland, located on private property within the SCE ROW utility corridor.

#### WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 3)

A new temporary work area (0.03 acre) is required from the north side of the 4N34 tower pad, extending outside of the previously approved supersite, to repair existing erosion and install a new McCarthy Drain to control erosion along the flowline, in the area shown in Figure 1, page 3. In addition, repairs within the approved work area will be completed to divert run-off from the pad to the new McCarthy drain installation.

The new disturbance area consists of 0.024-acre of Coastal Sage Scrub, 0.001-acre grassland/forbland, and 0.003-acre developed disturbed land, located on private property within the SCE ROW utility corridor.

### **Environmental Analysis**

No additional 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 of publicly available data and relevant project data was conducted to determine the potential for special-status species to occur in the new work areas. The MPR 52 work areas were included within the study area for previous biological surveys (e.g., habitat assessments, protocol, and focused surveys).

The MPR 52 work areas were also covered during the following project preconstruction surveys:

WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 1)	<a href="#">FRED Preconstruction Survey ID #000075</a>
WA-3-3X35-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 2)	<a href="#">FRED Preconstruction Survey ID #000051</a>
WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 3)	<a href="#">FRED Preconstruction Survey ID #000177</a>

**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. As shown on Figure 1, page 2 an observation of a special-status bird species (Yellow-headed Blackbird; FRED Species Events 000159) was made in the vicinity of WA-3-3X35-MPR-35. However, the observation was ephemeral from 2019 and not associated with an active nest.

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 proposed 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**

The proposed work areas are 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 to LBVI/SWFL or riparian habitat are anticipated.

### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher**

WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 is located within mapped suitable Habitat for Coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) as shown on Figure 1, page 3.

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 is considered unoccupied by CAGN at this time. If active CAGN nests or breeding territories are identified later 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.

No suitable habitat for CAGN occurs within 500 feet of the other proposed work areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with implementation of preconstruction surveys and mitigation measures.

### **Stephens' Kangaroo Rat**

Areas of suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) are mapped approximately 300 feet northeast of WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 and within WA-4-4N34-MPR-52(Figure 1, pages 1 and 3). 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. With implementation of mitigation measures, preconstruction surveys, clearance sweeps, and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to SKR are anticipated.

SKR habitat is mapped southeast of WA-3-3X35-MPR-35 but not within 500 feet, therefore no impacts to SKR are anticipated at this work area.

### **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 area, however Ringtail and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are not expected.

Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM) suitable habitat is not located within 500 feet of the work areas. However, a deceased LAPM was identified at 4N34 approximately 90 feet southeast of WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 (FRED Species Event 000260, FRED Mortality Event 000069; Figure 1, page 3). With implementation of mitigation measures and biological monitoring during construction, no impacts to LAPM or other special-status small mammals are anticipated. If any special-status small mammals are found, potential impacts will be addressed in accordance with 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 areas do 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 areas. No owl buffers currently intersect the work areas. 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 areas are 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 areas. 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 proposed work areas during project related surveys. With biological monitoring and implementation of project mitigation measures, no impacts are anticipated.

### **Jurisdictional Waters**

The MPR 52 work areas do not intersect jurisdictional waters. Therefore, no additional non-permitted impacts to jurisdictional features are anticipated.

### **Cultural Resources**

The proposed work areas 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 are the proposed components of MPR 52, with associated PFYC class:

WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 1)	Very High PFYC Class 5
WA-3-3X35-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 2)	Very High PFYC Class 5
WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 - (Figure 1, page 3)	Moderate PFYC Class 3

### **Resources:**

Biological       NO SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT       SENSITIVE RESOURCES PRESENT       N/A

New Survey Report Attached:       YES       NO

If No, Previous Biological Survey Reference: The proposed components of MPR 52 and the associated preconstruction biological surveys are listed in the table within the Biological Resources section.

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

If in APE, Previous Cultural Survey Reference:

The proposed MPR 52 components 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. *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.)

- AIR QUALITY
- BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- CONTAMINATED SOILS
- CULTURAL RESOURCES
- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- LAND USE
- NOISE
- PALEO RESOURCES
- SOCIOECONOMIC
- STORM WATER (SWPPP)

- TRAFFIC
- VISUAL
- WATER RESOURCES
- WETLANDS

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: *Jeff Miller*   Date: 12/21/2021

Environmental Inspector:    FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

Name: Lisa Amador   Signature: *Lisa Amador*   Date: 12/21/2021

Land Agent:    CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS    NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence   Signature: *James Spence*   Date: 12/21/2021

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

Name: Sylvia Granados   Signature: *Sylvia Granados*   Date: 12/21/2021



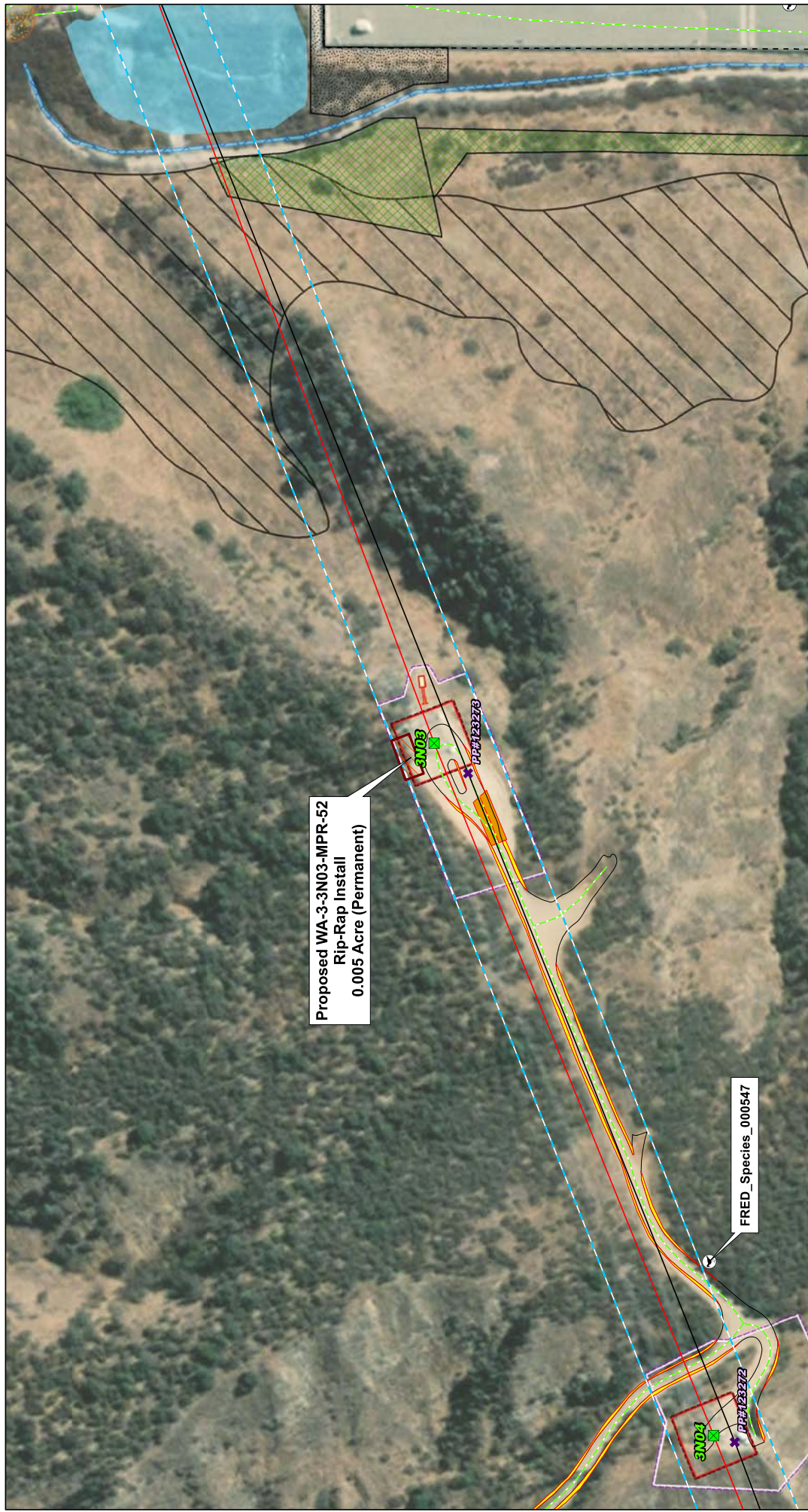


FIGURE 1  
 Southern California Edison  
 West of Devers Upgrade Project  
**Proposed Work Areas**  
 MPR #52  
 WA-3-3N03-MPR-52 Rip-Rap Install



**LEGEND**

MPR #52 Proposed Work Area	Existing Civil Access Roads Lines	Potential Road Widening	Non-wetland Waters
FRED Species Event	New Access Road	Existing Substation Area	CDFW Jurisdiction
Major Trans Structure	Existing Access Road	Existing ROW	USACER/WOCB Jurisdiction
Removed	Proposed Civil Drainage Area	Construction Areas	
Constructed	Permanent, New, Mac Drain Single	Construction Work Site	
Major Trans Line	Permanent, New, Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat	General Disturbance Area	
Proposed	O&M Tower Area	O&M Tower Area	

Scale: 0 50 100 FEET

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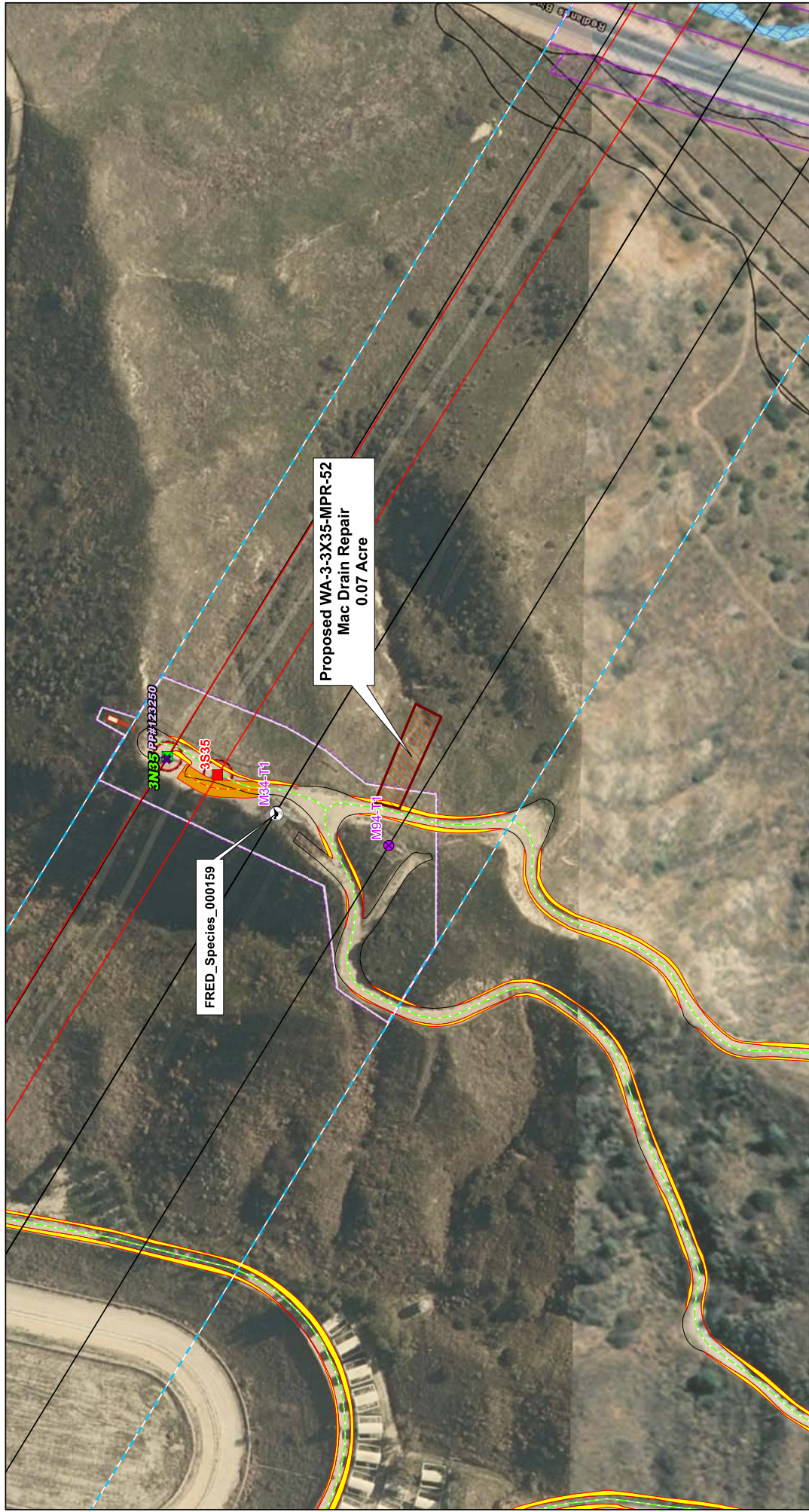


FIGURE 2  
 Southern California Edison  
 West of Devers Upgrade Project  
**Proposed Work Areas**  
 MPR #52  
 WA-3-3X35-MPR-52 Mac Drain Repair



**LEGEND**

	<b>MPR #52 Proposed Work Area</b>		<b>Major Trans Line Proposed</b>
	<b>FRED Species Event</b>		<b>Major Trans Line Existing</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Removed</b>		<b>Civil Access Roads New</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Constructed</b>		<b>Civil Access Roads Existing</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Proposed</b>		<b>Civil Access Roads Edge</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Remove</b>		

	<b>Designed Road Boundary</b>		<b>Proposed Civil Drainage Area Permanent, New, Gabion</b>
	<b>Potential Road Widening</b>		<b>Proposed Civil Drainage Area Permanent, New, Mac Drain Single Slope</b>
	<b>Existing ROW</b>		<b>Proposed Civil Drainage Area Slope</b>
	<b>Construction Areas</b>		<b>Non-wetland Waters CDFW Jurisdiction</b>
	<b>Guard Pole</b>		<b>Non-wetland Waters USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction</b>
	<b>O&amp;M Tower Area</b>		
	<b>Structure Work Area</b>		





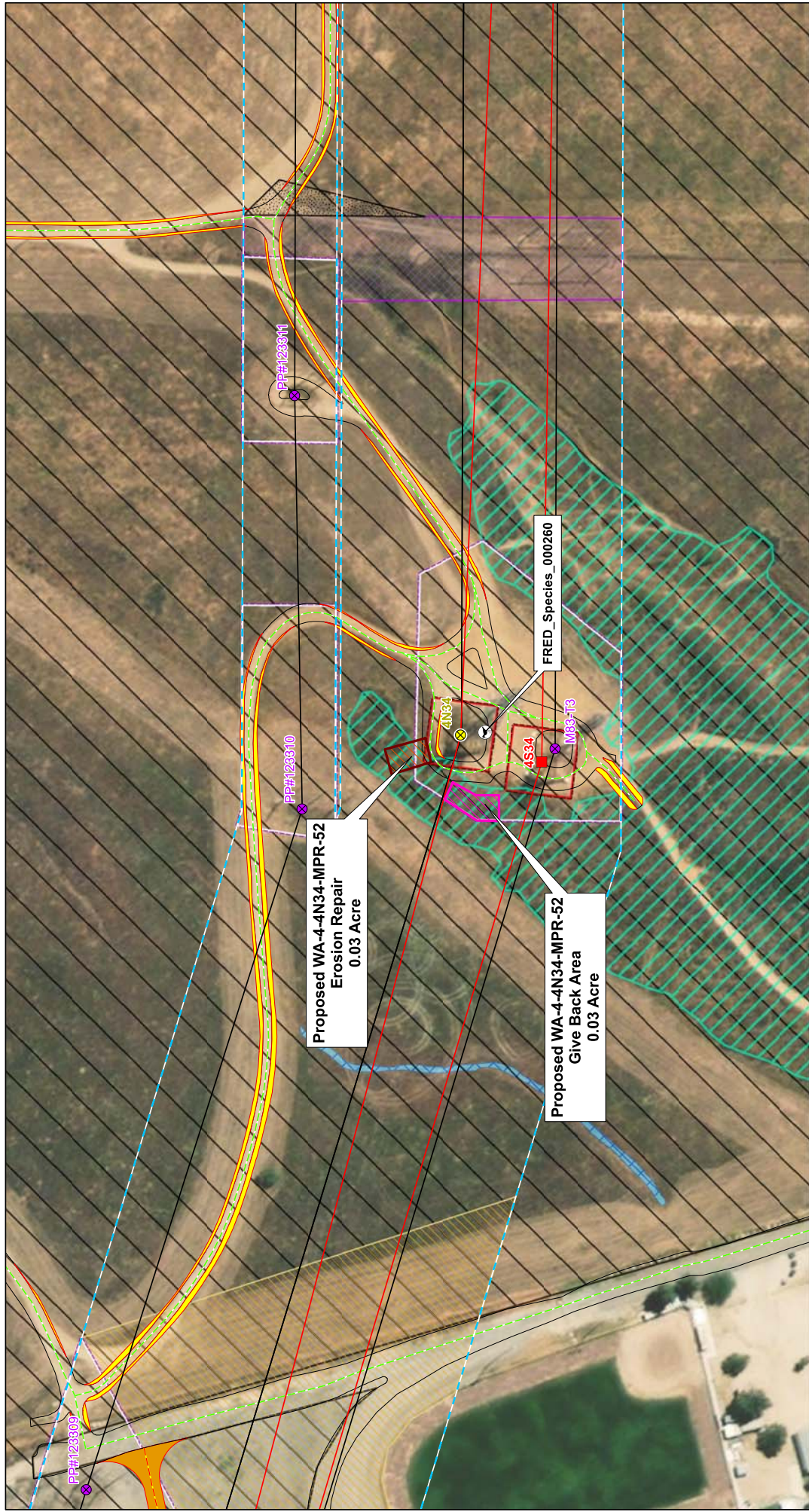


FIGURE 3  
 Southern California Edison  
 West of Devers Upgrade Project  
**Proposed Work Areas**  
 MPR #52  
 WA-4-4N34-MPR-52 Erosion Repair



**LEGEND**

	<b>MPR #52 Proposed Work Area</b>		<b>Major Trans Line Proposed</b>		<b>Wire Setup Work Area</b>
	<b>FRED Species Event</b>		<b>Major Trans Line Existing</b>		<b>Coastal California Gnatcatcher Suitable Habitat</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Proposed</b>		<b>Civil Access Road New</b>		<b>Stephens Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Modify</b>		<b>Civil Access Road Existing</b>		<b>Non-wetland Waters</b>
	<b>Major Trans Structure Remove</b>		<b>Civil Access Road Edge Existing</b>		<b>CDFW Jurisdiction</b>
	<b>Designed Road Boundary</b>		<b>Potential Road Widening</b>		<b>USACER/WCCB Jurisdiction</b>
	<b>Existing ROW</b>		<b>Construction Areas</b>		
	<b>Guard Pole</b>		<b>O&amp;M Tower Area</b>		
	<b>Structure Work Area</b>				

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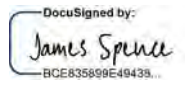
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