

# Environmental Minor Project Refinement Form



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

**Date Approval Required:** February 11, 2022 **Variance Request No.:** 53

**Date Submitted:** February 4, 2022 **Locations:** Supersite 3X64 in the City of Loma Linda, San Bernardino County (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-3-3X64-MPR-53 (Figure 1, page 1)	City of Loma Linda	0294-011-30

**Current Vegetative Cover/Land Use:** Grassland/Forbland

**Existing Sensitive Resource?** NO  YES Specify: Jurisdictional Waters

**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-3-3X64-MPR-53 (Figure 1, page 1)

A 0.01-acre temporary work area is required immediately southwest of Tower Site 3S64 for the installation of an extended McCarthy Flume and Gabion Dissipator. This work is required to address on-site erosion and maintain slope stability. Drainage improvements will include re-contouring to repair existing erosional rills and features caused by offsite discharge to the upland area. Prior to installation, loose or yielding soil may be over-excavated and re-compacted. Temporary BMPs will be installed to prevent impacts to the non-wetland jurisdictional feature to the west of the work area during construction activities.

The new work area, shown on Figure 1, page 1, is located entirely within the existing transmission line right-of-way, in area owned by the City of Loma Linda, consisting of approximately 0.10-acre of grassland/forbland.

### 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 ID 000060 and resurveys of the area.

**Desert Tortoise** – The new work area is 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 area during project-related surveys. However, many species have the potential to occur throughout the project area.

A preconstruction sweep of the active 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. The new work area does not 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 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** – No suitable habitat for riparian birds (least Bell's vireo [LBVI]/Southwestern willow flycatcher [SWFL]) occurs within 500 feet of the new work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

**Coastal California Gnatcatcher [CAGN]** – No suitable habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (CAGN) occurs within 500 feet of the new work area. Therefore, no impacts 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 new work area. Protocol aerial surveys conducted for the project in 2019 showed no golden eagle nests within 2 miles of the new work area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

**Stephens' Kangaroo Rat** – Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Mapped Suitable Habitat (SKR) is located approximately 250 feet north of the new work area (Figure 1, page 1), but does not intersect the work area. 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.

**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. The work area is located outside the known range of the Palm Springs pocket mouse. No mapped suitable habitat for the Los Angeles pocket mouse occurs in or near the work area.

No special-status small mammals have been observed in the vicinity of the new work area during previous preconstruction surveys or construction. A preconstruction survey of the new work area will be conducted prior to use. With implementation of mitigation measures and biological monitoring during construction as outlined in the Special-status Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan, no significant impacts to special-status mammals are anticipated.

**Special-status Plants** – No special-status plants have been observed in the vicinity of the new work area during previous preconstruction surveys or construction. 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 area. 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 area 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 area.

### Cultural Resources

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 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*

WA-3-3X64-MPR-53 is located within an area of very high PFYC 5 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.

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### **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 area. The new work area was covered during active FRED Preconstruction Survey ID 000060.

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**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 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 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.

**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: *Jeff Miller* Date: 2/2/2022

Environmental Inspector:  FIELD REVIEW COMPLETE

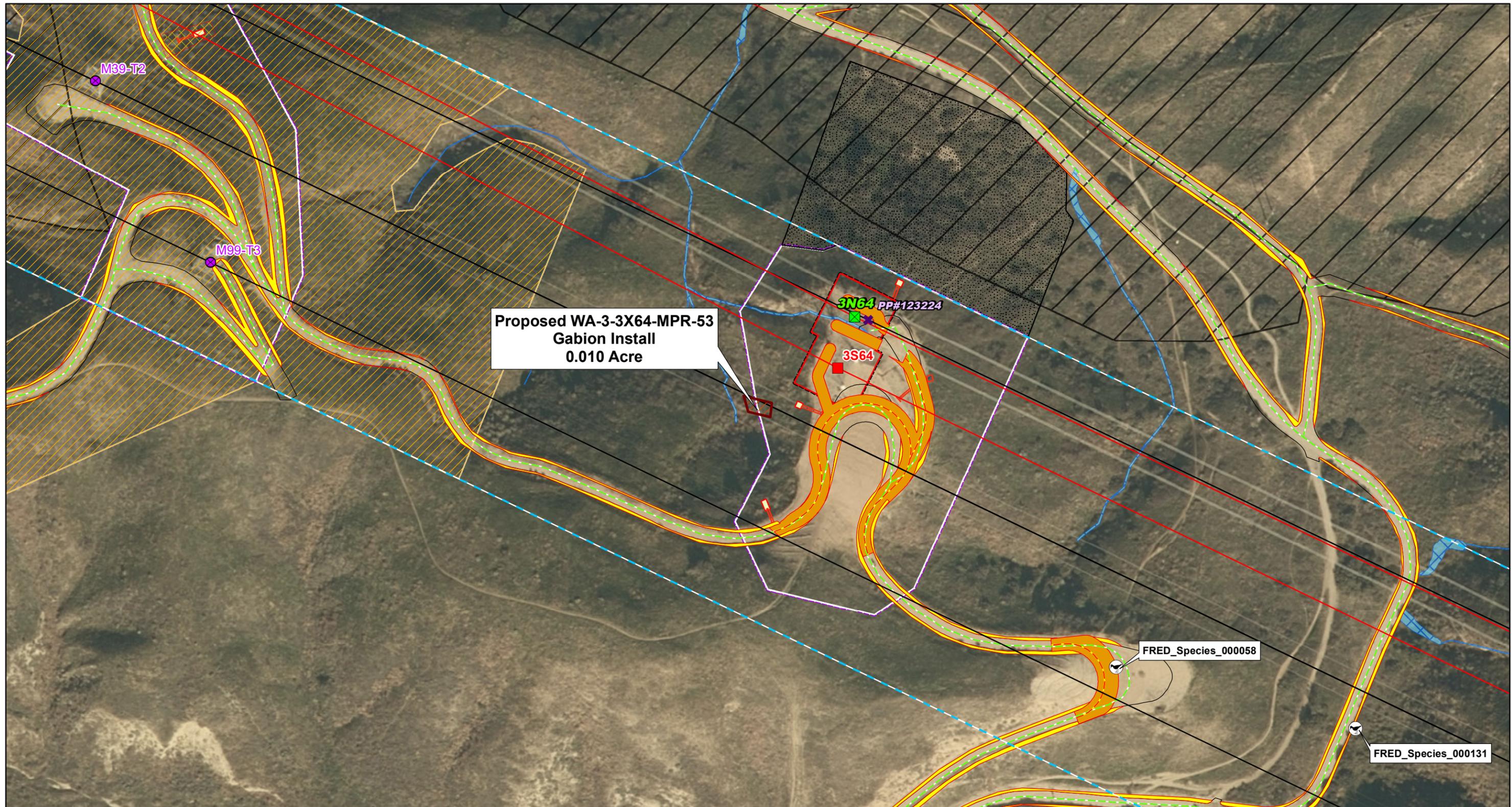
Name: Lisa Amador Signature: *Lisa Amador* Date: 2/2/2022

Land Agent:  CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS  NEW RIGHTS OBTAINED

Name: James Spence Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2/2/2022

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

Name: Sylvia Granados Signature: *Sylvia Granados* Date: 2/2/2022



**Proposed WA-3-3X64-MPR-53  
Gabion Install  
0.010 Acre**

FRED\_Species\_000058

FRED\_Species\_000131



SCE, ESRI World Imagery

**LEGEND**

- MPR #53 Proposed Work Area
- FRED Species Event
- Major Trans Structure**
  - Removed
  - Constructed
  - Proposed
  - Remove
- 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**
  - O&M Tower Area
  - Structure Work Area
  - Wire Setup
- Work Area
- Proposed Civil Drainage Area**
  - Permanent, New, Gabion
  - Permanent, New, Mac Drain Single
- Civil Disturbance Area**
  - Temporary, Civil Work Limits
  - Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Suitable Habitat
- Non-wetland Waters**
  - CDFW Jurisdiction
  - USACE/RWQCB Jurisdiction



FIGURE 1

*Southern California Edison*  
**West of Devers Upgrade Project**  
**Proposed Work Area**  
MPR #53  
WA-3-3X64-MPR-53 Gabion Install

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