

Southern California Edison
A.23-04-009 – TLRR EPL

DATA REQUEST SET E D - S C E - E P L - D E F 0 0 1

To: Energy Division
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Received Date: 5/19/2023

Response Date: 11/8/2023

Question DD-BIO1-Supp1:

Issue: Botanical surveys were conducted over 5 years ago in the spring of 2017 and 2018. The biological resources reports lack data on rainfall to evaluate whether the reports were conducted during wet or dry years in the region. In addition, the biological resources reports do not address the State of California status for Joshua Tree as a candidate species. The reports show the location of Joshua Tree woodland vegetation communities, but do not provide the locations of individual Joshua trees.

How to address: The botanical surveys need to be updated to reflect current conditions. Rainfall conditions (e.g., wet or dry year) at the time of survey need to be discussed in the rare plant survey report. Because Joshua Tree is a candidate species, the locations of Joshua trees need to be provided and the number of Joshua trees that would need to be removed needs to be quantifiable. Provide GIS data for all Joshua Tree locations in the study area.

Response to Question DD-BIO1-Supp1:

SCE will perform supplemental rare plant surveys along the EPL Project alignment in the spring and summer of 2024; these surveys will be performed in locations where Special-Status plant species were previously documented, locations where Special-Status plant species may be found, and incidental locations that may have been added to the Project since the 2017-2018 surveys were performed. At the conclusion of the summer 2024 surveys, SCE will develop and submit to the CPUC a Botanical Supplement to the existing biological resources report and will submit accompanying GIS data.

Information regarding absolute and relative rainfall is provided in Section 5.4.1.5.1 of the PEA. This information will be updated in the aforementioned Botanical Supplement; SCE will provide in the Botanical Supplement updated data from California Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Water Year Type Dataset. This updated data will be accompanied by a discussion regarding the impacts of rainfall conditions on each of the 2017, 2018, and 2024 surveys.

SCE will, in either Q1 or Q2 of 2024, perform a census of western Joshua tree along that portion of the EPL Project alignment that is located within the range of the western Joshua tree as defined by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

(https://services2.arcgis.com/Uq9r85Potqm3MfRV/arcgis/rest/services/biosds3020_fpu/FeatureService). This census will be performed in identified construction work areas and the required buffer area per CDFW guidance (see <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/WJT/Permitting/Census-Instructions>). GIS data of all Joshua tree locations in the census area will be provided to the CPUC at the conclusion of the census. SCE will, to the extent possible at the time of the census, identify those individual western Joshua tree that will be removed as part of the EPL Project.