

Southern California Edison
A.22-02-014 – GKR PTC

DATA REQUEST SET E D - S C E - 0 0 6

To: Energy Division
Prepared by: Mindy Davis
Job Title: Envir Science, Advisor
Received Date: 12/21/2023

Response Date: 1/19/2024

Question 01:

This APM includes the following language:

“If SJKF occupancy is determined at a given site during pre-construction surveys, USFWS and CDFW will be consulted for any necessary and unavoidable impacts prior to conducting work.” Since there will be consultations required and no necessary and unavoidable impacts would result, can the statement be revised to remove the “Necessary and Unavoidable” language?

Response to Question 01:

SCE is amendable with the modified language. Since SCE is obtaining take coverage permits, we recommend the following:

"If SJKF occupancy is determined at a given site during pre-construction surveys, SCE will follow all take permit conditions and resource management plan requirements to address SJKF; USFWS and CDFW will be consulted prior to conducting work as required by the permits."

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Question 02:

This APM requires golden eagle nest surveys to be performed when construction activities are scheduled to occur in or near golden eagle nesting habitat from January 1-July 31 to determine if any eagle nests are active within a 1-mile radius. However, the CDFW Website (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Birds/Golden-Eagles>) states:

“The golden eagle breeds from late January through August”. Can this APM be revised to extend the date through August?

Response to Question 02:

The CDFW dates are inclusive of northern California, where breeding would start, and end later than it does for SCE’s territory. SCE uses July 31 within our territory. This date is used because golden eagles are typically done breeding by the end of June and so end of July is a conservative date.

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Question 03:

The APM requires the preparation and implementation of a Project-Specific Fire Management Plan. Can this plan be developed now? If not, please provide the reason why this plan would need to be prepared at a later date.

Response to Question 03:

Yes, the Fire Management plan can be developed now.

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Question 04:

Please provide the results of the 2023 blunt nosed leopard lizard protocol survey and the updates to the blunt nosed leopard lizard minimization and avoidance strategy based on the meeting held with resource agencies in October.

Response to Question 04:

Please see the attached final blunt nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) survey results ED-SCE-006 03_Q6-3a.PDF, and the BNLL avoidance document ED- SCE-006 03_Q6-3b.PDF.

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Question 05:

The Southern portion of the Proposed Project near Gorman Substation is within a Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area (SEA). The SEA ordinance defines protected trees to include:

- Native riparian species and trees listed as rare by California Native Plant Society are protected at 3-inch diameter at breast height (dbh).
- Native coniferous species are protected at 5-inch dbh.
- Native upland hardwood species are protected at 6-inch dbh.

The tree survey report only provided information on removal of trees that are 8 inches dbh or greater and did not provide information on removal of trees that are less than 8 inches dbh, including those that could be protected under the SEA.

Will the project require removal of any trees in the SEA that are protected trees under the SEA ordinance? Please provide additional information regarding trees removed from the SEA to support an assessment of impacts from potential conflicts with the SEA ordinance.

Response to Question 05:

Chapter 22.102 of the LA County Code exempts certain developments from the SEA. These exemptions are listed in Section 22.101.040.

SCE's work would meet the definition for "development" as provided in Chapter 22 as work under the Gorman-Kern River Project in Los Angeles County would not expand the previously approved development footprint. As a result, SCE is exempt from the SEA ordinance.