

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 14, 2023

Anthony Barranda
Senior Advisor - Infrastructure Licensing
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770

Re: Data Request #1 for the SCE TLRR Gorman-Kern River 66 kV Project (A.22-02-014)

Dear Mr. Barranda:

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) submitted its Permit to Construct (PTC) application and Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) on February 28, 2022. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Energy Division provided PEA deficiency letters to SCE on March 29, April 29 and October 31, 2022 and SCE is currently completing additional analysis.

As we prepare for field verification surveys and completion of the environmental analysis for the CEQA compliance document, we have identified additional information needed from SCE. Attached please find Data Request No. 1, which defines the additional questions we have at this time. We would appreciate your prompt responses to our data requests. We request that a response to this first request be provided to us within one week (by March 21) to assist us in preparing for focused field surveys.

One set of responses should be sent to the Energy Division and one to our consultant Panorama Environmental, Inc. in electronic format. Any questions on this data request should be directed to me by email at eric.chiang@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Chiang".

Eric Chiang
Project Manager, Energy Division

cc: Blanca Solares, Southern California Edison
Lauren P. Goschke, Southern California Edison
Case Administration, Southern California Edison
Susanne Heim and Jessica Koteen, Panorama Environmental

Submittal

Document Title: Proponent's Environmental Assessment for Southern California Edison Company's TLRR Gorman-Kern River 66 kV Project

Data Request Form No. No. 1

Description: Data Request #1

From: Panorama Environmental Inc.

To: Southern California Edison

Date Submitted: March 14, 2023

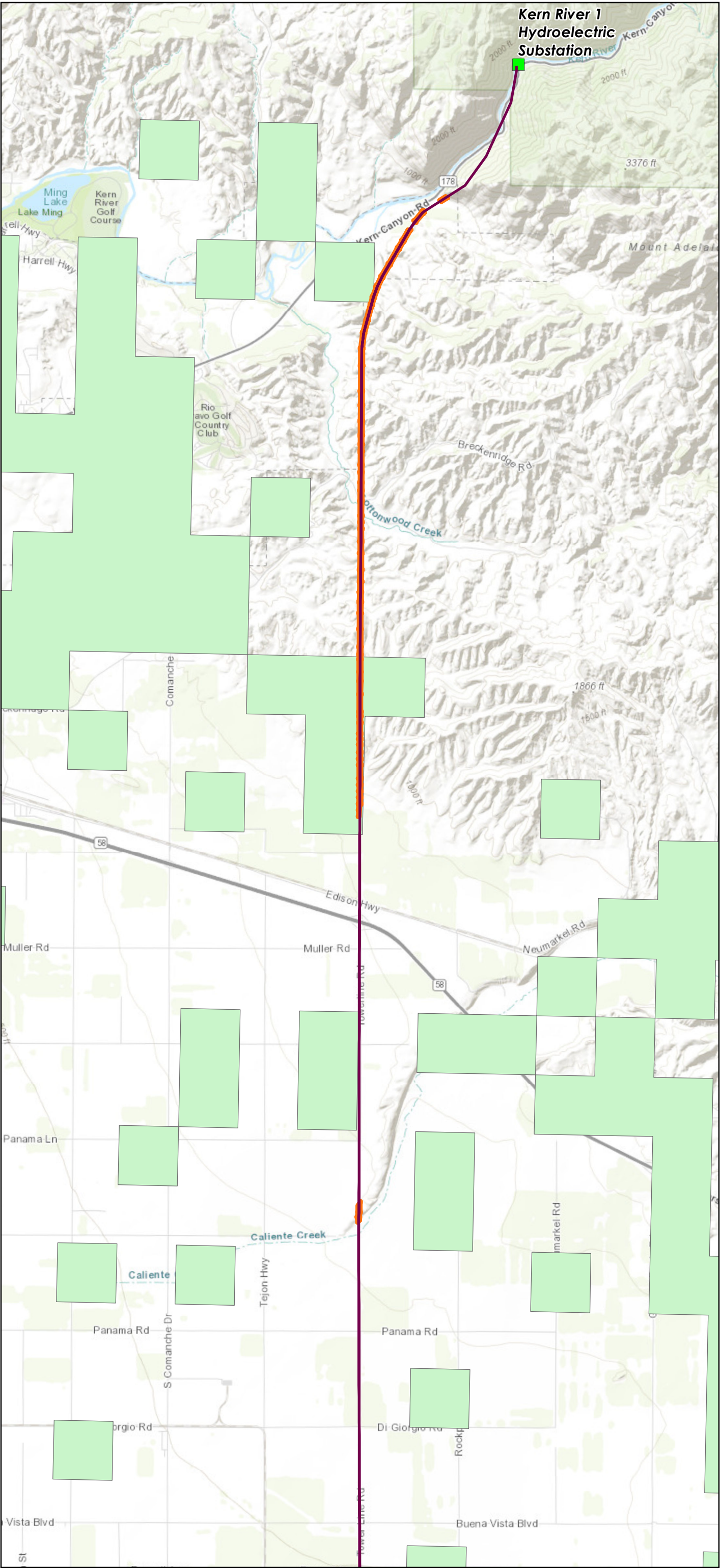
Determination

- ☐ Meets CPUC Requirements, No Additional Information Needed
- ☐ Does not Meet CPUC Requirements (see Deficiencies below)
- ☒ Additional Data Needed (see Data Requests below)

Data Request

PEA Section or Page #	Comment Code	Data Request
Section 5: Environmental Analysis		
5.4 Biological Resources		
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard		
Appendix C of the PEA (Sensitive Species Report) and Section 5.4 of PEA	DR1-1	The Project's Sensitive Species Report and the PEA notes the BNLL is likely to occur in two areas within the GKR alignment - where the alignment crosses annual grassland and open scrub habitat in the San Joaquin Valley and nearby foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains north and south of Comanche Point southeast of Arvin in Segments 1, 2, and 4 and near the California aqueduct between Wheeler Ridge and Grapevine in Segment 2 based on CNDDDB records and SCE's field surveys. During our meeting on February 27, 2023, SCE biologists noted that some areas of the alignment are highly suitable for BNLL and have known occurrences. Please provide the additional records or results of focused surveys available to refine data on BNLL observations near the Project alignment.
Appendix C of the PEA (Sensitive Species Report)	DR1-2	In the Sensitive Species Report a map is shown for blunt-nosed leopard lizard probability of occurrence (Figure 7, page 291 of 517). The map shows "Predicted Occupied Habitat and Probability of Occurrence based on USGS models". Please confirm that the figures included in the Report are utilizing data derived from USGS predicted habitat models and are not reflecting results of habitat assessments during surveys.
Appendix C of the PEA (Sensitive Species Report)	DR1-3	The attached figure shows the suitable habitat mapped for BNLL along the project alignment based on GIS data we received from SCE. Please confirm whether these areas align with the suspected occupied habitat areas and what criteria were used to determine habitat suitability. Please provide the source of this information (presence of suitable habitat and the professional opinion of SCE surveyors and biologists or consultants, on the "Predicted Occupied Habitat and Probability of Occurrence based on USGS models", or another source of information).
Appendix C of the PEA (Sensitive	DR1-4	During our February 27, 2023 meeting, SCE noted they would start consultation and coordination with USFWS and CDFW regarding potential impacts to BNLL. Please define the area that SCE is presuming

PEA Section or Page #	Comment Code	Data Request
Species Report) and Section 5.4 of PEA		are occupied habitat where a federal "take" permit will be obtained. What procedures is SCE proposing to avoid "take" under Fish and Game Code. Please also define the areas of potentially suitable habitat where SCE is presuming BNLL are not expected to occur and where surveys will be used to verify absence in lieu of a "take" permit and more advanced avoidance measures.



Kern River TLRR

Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Habitat
Page 1 of 4

Legend

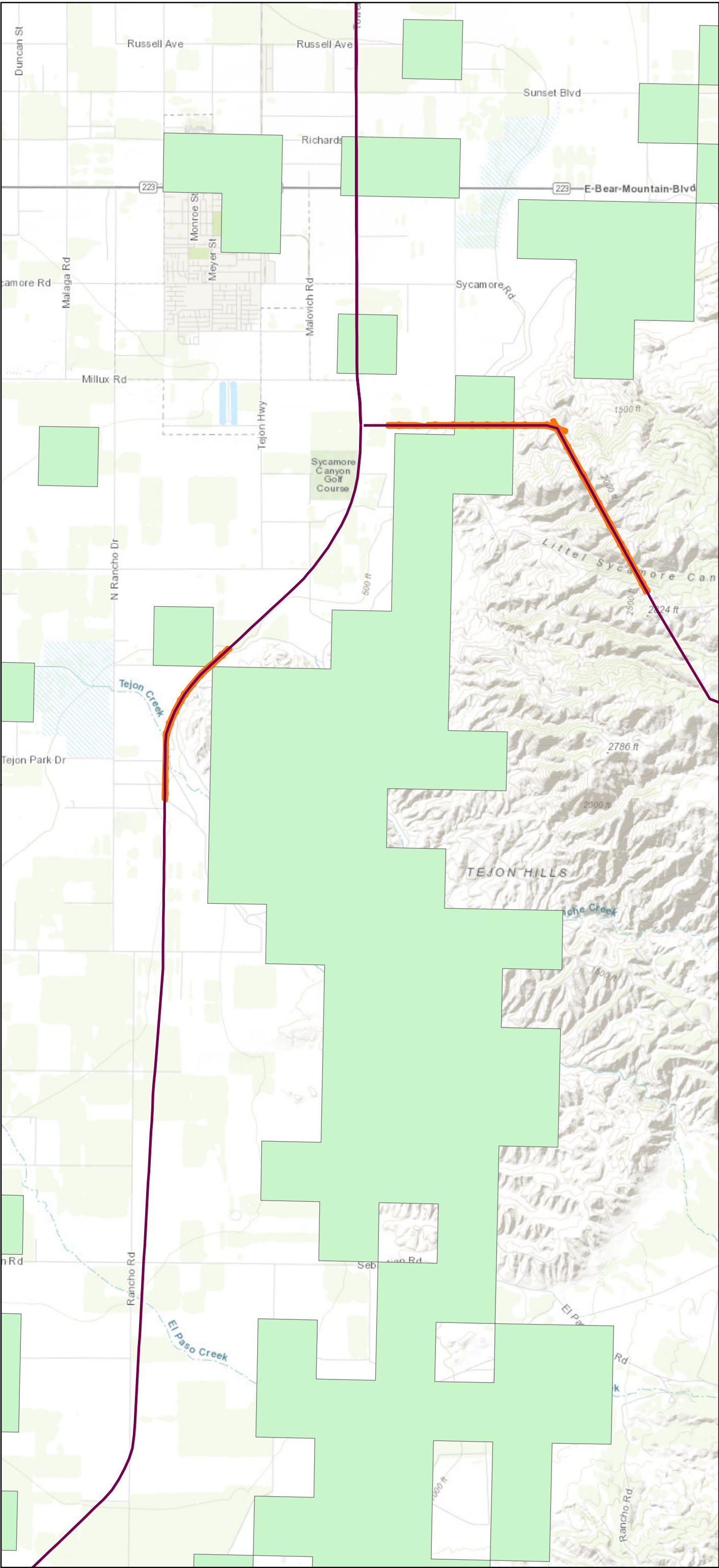
- Substation
- Subtransmission Alignment
- BNLL Suitable Habitat Mapped During Surveys (2017-2019)
- BNLL USGS Predicted Habitat Model

Map Extent Indicator

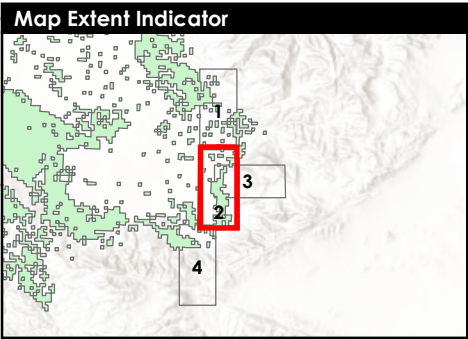
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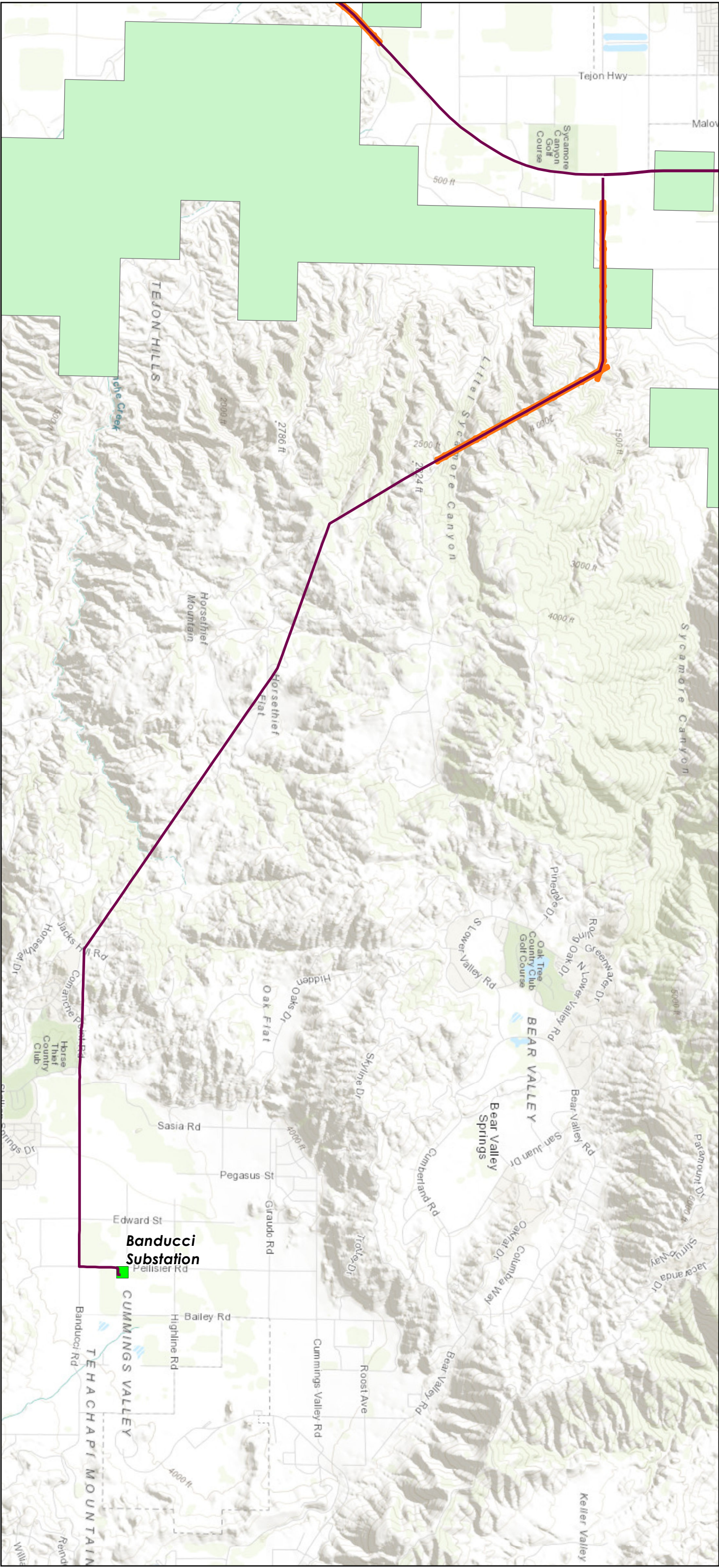
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Date Created: 3/13/2023



- Legend**
- Subtransmission Alignment
 - BNLL Suitable Habitat Mapped During Surveys (2017-2019)
 - BNLL USGS Predicted Habitat Model





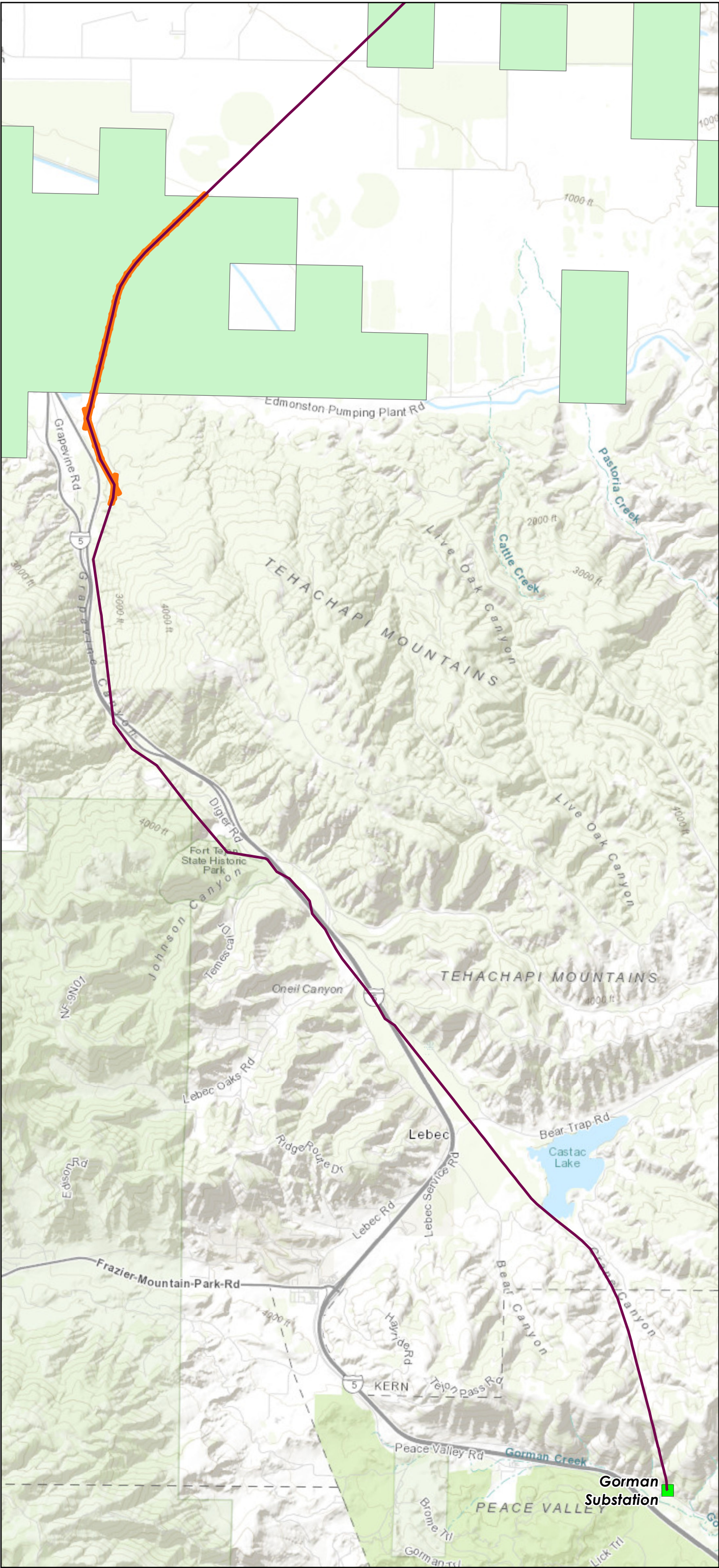
Kern River TLRR
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Habitat
Page 3 of 4

Legend

- Substation
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Map Extent Indicator

Scale = 1:65,000
0 0.5 1 Miles
Date Created: 3/13/2023



Legend

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