

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 21, 2023

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

Re: Data Request #6 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. As we prepare for the environmental analysis for the CEQA compliance document, we have identified additional information needed from SCE. Attached please find Data Request No. 6, which defines the additional information we require at this time. We would appreciate your prompt responses to our data requests in accordance with the proposed schedule provided to the CPUC.

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. 6

Description: Data Request #6

From: Panorama Environmental Inc.

To: Southern California Edison

Date Submitted: December 21, 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 2: Project Description		
APM BIO MAM-2	DR6-1	<p>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."</p> <p>Data request: 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?</p>
APM BIO AVI-3	DR6-2	<p>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".</p> <p>Data request: Can this APM be revised to extend the date through August?</p>
APM HAZ-1	DR6-3	<p>Data Request: 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.</p>
Section 5: Environmental Analysis		
5.4 Biological Resources		
Table 5.4-1 - Biological Surveys Conducted within the GKR Project Alignment	DR6-4	<p>Data request: 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.</p>

PEA Section or Page #	Comment Code	Data Request
5.4.2.3.2 Los Angeles County General Plan	DR6-5	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>Data request: 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.</p>