



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

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February 8, 2023

Albert Garcia
Director of Environmental Services
Southern California Gas Co.
555 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, California 90013
agarcia6@socalgas.com

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. 2004-004-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DREDGED OR FILL DISCHARGES TO WATERS DEEMED BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BE OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION, L6001 MP23.88 RECOAT PROJECT (WDID NO. 7A133174001), RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Dear Mr. Garcia,

On December 19, 2022, Southern California Gas Company (Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for enrollment of the L6001 MP23.88 Recoat Project (Project) under the Statewide *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction*, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order).

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) staff reviewed the NOI and related materials, and have determined that dredge/fill discharges associated with the Project meet all relevant requirements for enrollment. Accordingly, the Discharger's Project is hereby enrolled under the General Order, and may proceed in compliance therewith.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed herewith, and may also be found on the State Water Board [Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification and Wetlands Program webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html).

Please familiarize yourself with the General Order's provisions, as the Discharger is now responsible for compliance with all applicable requirements. Failure to comply with the General Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

EDWARD MUZIK, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

The Discharger has identified a 100-foot segment of 10-inch pipeline that needs to be excavated and recoated to provide sufficient cathodic protection. Cathodic protection is necessary to help prevent corrosion from occurring on the exterior of the pipeline and is mandated by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The current cathodic protection of the pipeline is considered out of tolerance by the DOT and needs to be addressed to ensure pipeline safety.

The Discharger will excavate, sand blast, and recoat the pipeline. Equipment that will be used includes pick-up trucks, portable generators, forklifts, water trucks, side boom, excavator, air-compressor, vacuum truck, welding truck, crane, and backhoe. The work and staging areas are estimated at 150-foot by 50-foot. All work will occur within the Discharger's pipeline right-of-way (ROW). Crews of approximately ten persons will be working at the site for about 3 weeks. The Project will temporarily impact 0.01 acres/103.1 linear feet of ephemeral wash, with no permanent impacts identified. The ephemeral wash is a water of the state.

The Project is scheduled to begin in March 2023 and end in April 2023. Exact dates are based on access to the Project location. Upon completion of the Project, all temporary fills will be removed in their entirety, slopes stabilized, and effected areas returned to pre-construction elevations and contours.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located at Mile Post 23.88 (MP23.88) along the (ROW) for Line 6001 (L6001). This location is in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, approximately 8-miles north of Niland, California, within the U.S. Marine Corps' Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps and photographs showing the Project location are found in Attachment A.

Site No.	Latitude	Longitude
SCG L6001 MP23.8 Chocolate Mtn	33.35565° N	- 115.48299° W

FEES RECEIVED

Payment for the application fee in the amount of \$ 2,417 was received on December 23, 2022. There is no project fee due to the minor amount of waters of the state impacted by the Project.

The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as "Category E - Fill & Excavation Discharges" (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has reviewed submitted application material and determined that the enrollment of this Project under the General Order, which prescribes waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the Project, is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.). Specifically, the issuance of this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and the Project described herein, meet the criteria for a Class 1 exemption for “existing facilities” under the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15301). Additionally, no exceptions to the exemption applies.

Pursuant to CEQA, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this Order and they are included in Attachment B.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The Discharger must implement the measures identified in the Project NOI application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in WQO 2004-0004.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Upon completion of the Project, SoCalGas shall submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting to be un-enrolled under WQO 2004-0004. Section C.29 and 30 of WQO 2004-0004 explains report contents. Attachment 2 of WQO 2004-0004 is a copy of the NOT.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Kai Dunn, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8986 or at Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By _____

Paula Rasmussen
Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosures: 1) Attachment A Project Maps
2) Attachment B CEQA Findings
3) Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

KD/

cc via email (with enclosures):

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File: WDID: 7133174001, RM: 450558, Place ID: 884886, L6001 MP23.88 Recoat Project,
Order 2004-004-DWQ

ATTACHMENT A
Project Maps

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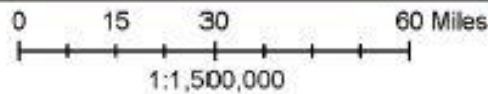
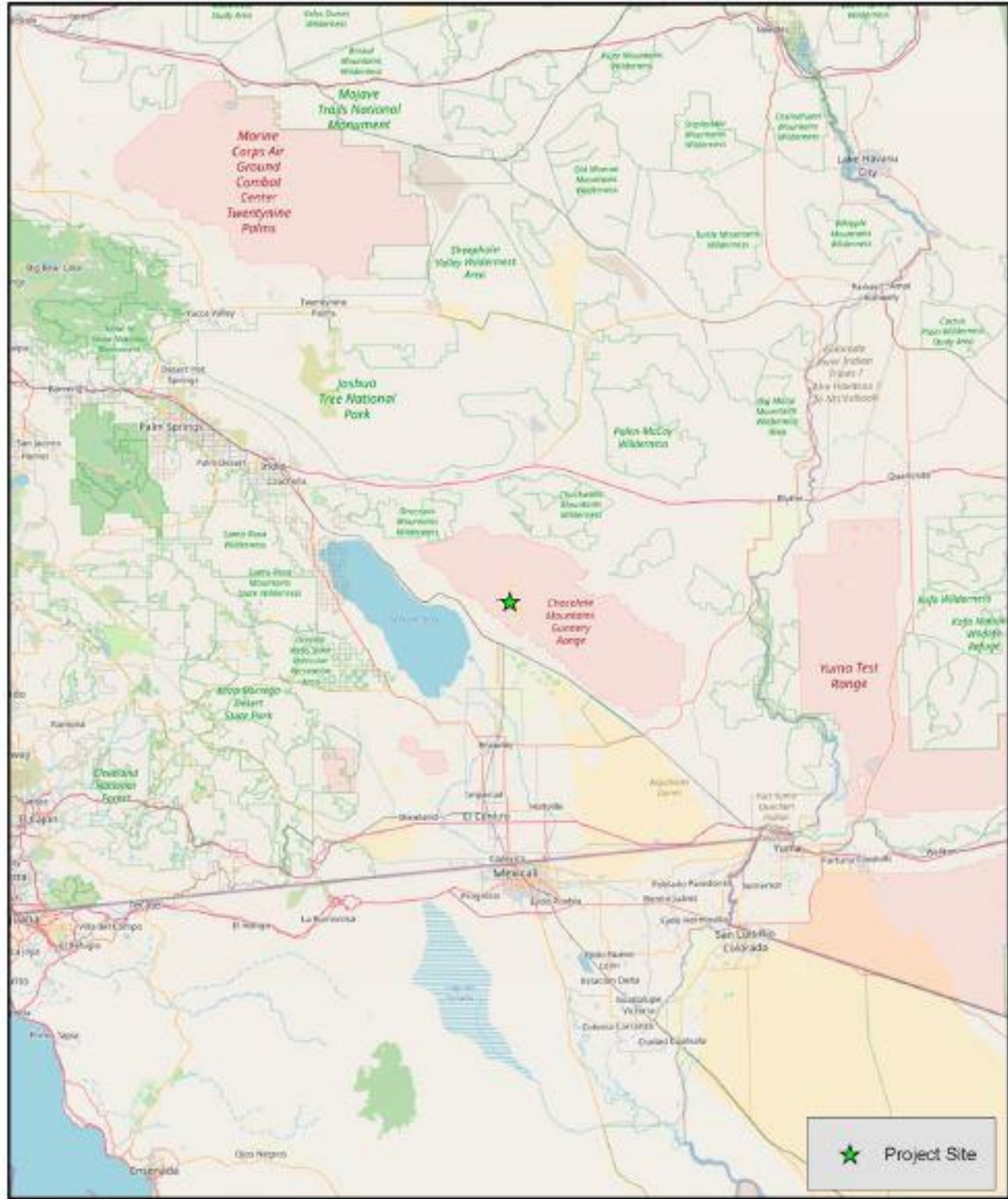


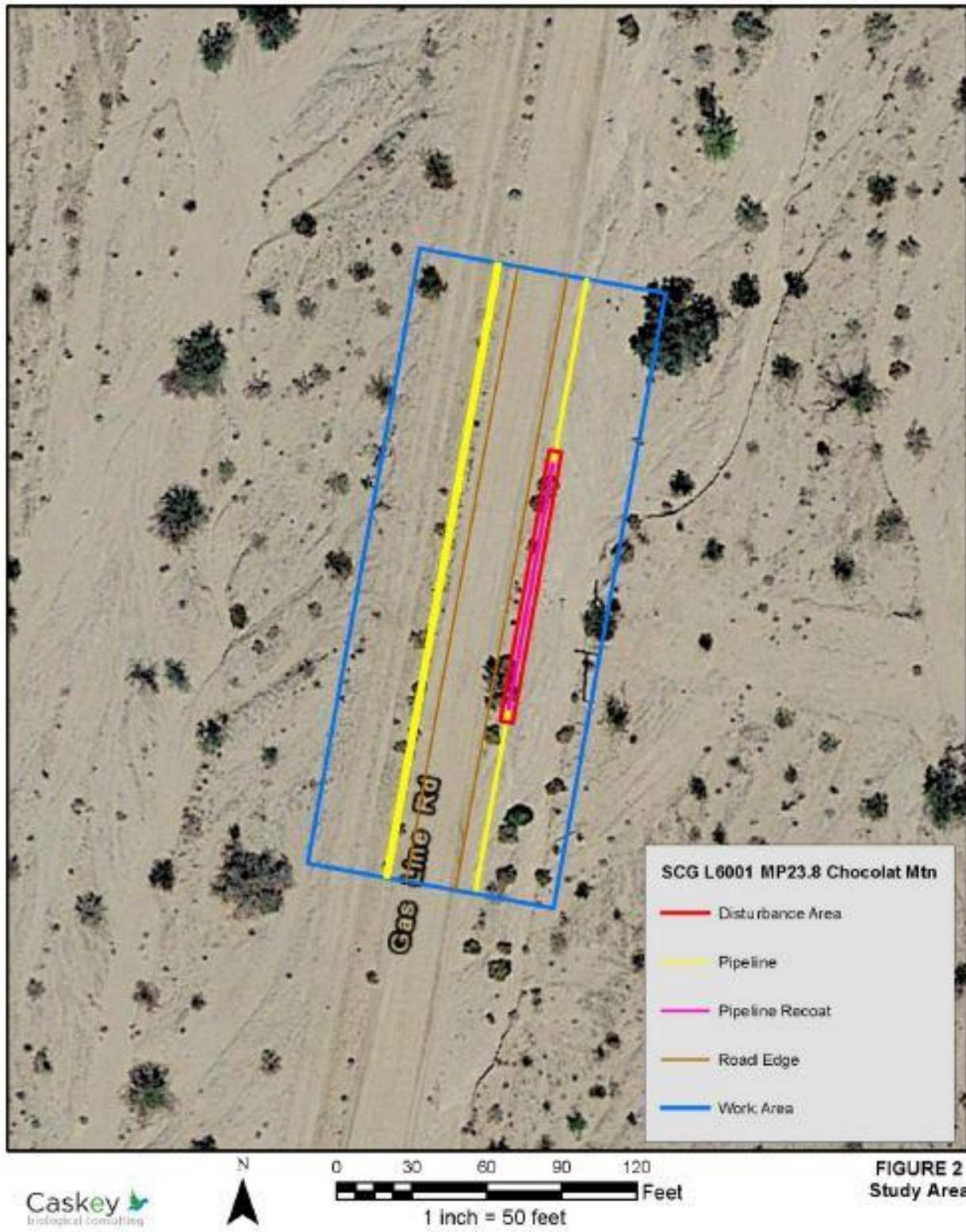
FIGURE 1
Regional Location

DATE: November 4, 2022
COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 State Plane California Zone VI (feet)
SOURCE: ESRI Open Street Map, SoCalGas

PROJECT:
SoCalGas L6001 MP23.8
Chocolate Mountain

(SoCalGas, 2022)¹

¹ Southern California Gas Company, December 2022. Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by SoCalGas for the L6001 MP23.88 Recoat Project. Maps and photographs taken from submitted application material.



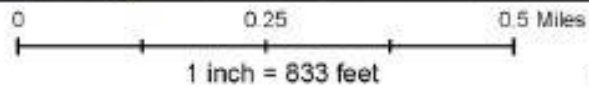
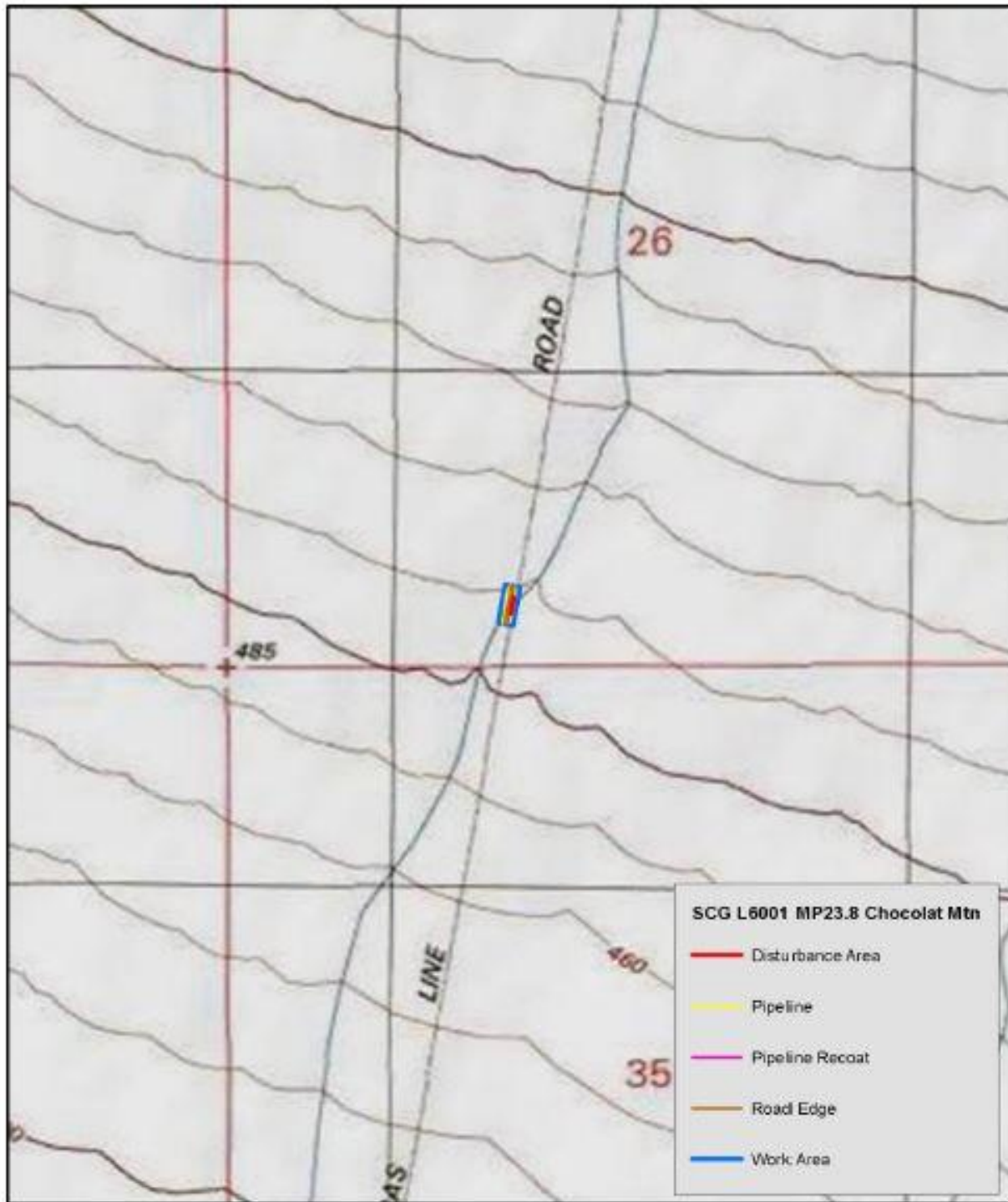
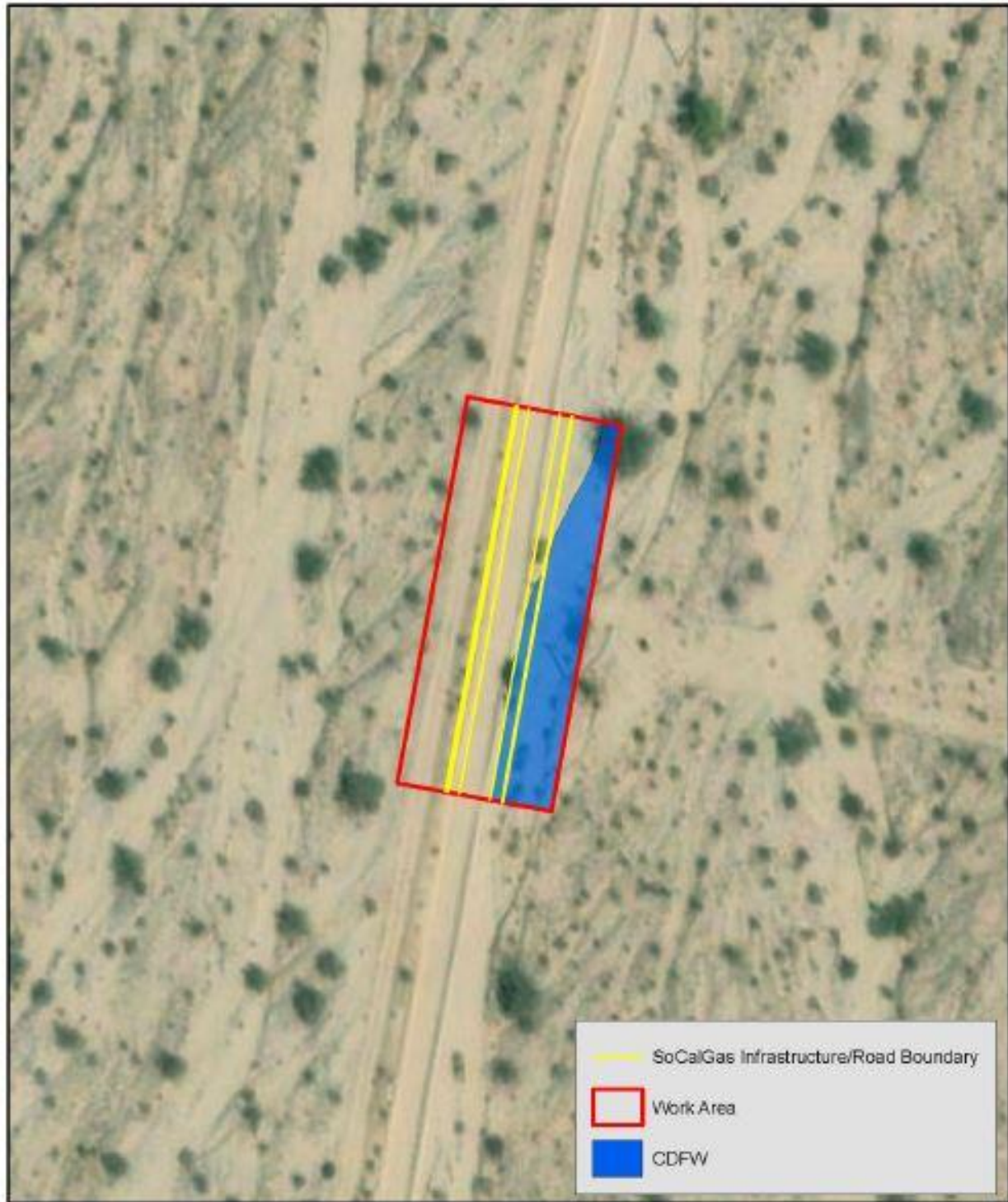


FIGURE 3
Study Area
USGS Topographic Map





	SoCalGas Infrastructure/Road Boundary
	Work Area
	CDFW

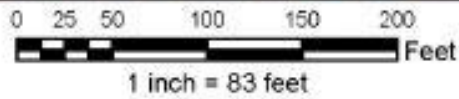


FIGURE 5
Jurisdictional Delineation Results



Figure 7: Photographs of the Project location.

ATTACHMENT B CEQA Findings

A. Introduction

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the exemptions criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15301 (Existing Facilities).

B. Findings

1. Applicable Categorical Exemption

Under title 14, section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, there is a “Class 1” categorical exemption where the proposed project “consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination” such as “ (b) [ex]isting facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.”

The Project falls within the exemptions per section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the Project involves the recoating of a natural gas pipeline. The Project will not result in an expansion of use.

2. No Exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions Apply

There is no substantial evidence that any exceptions to the CEQA categorical exemptions listed above apply. Analysis of the relevant exceptions pursuant to section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are as follows:

- a. *Location. Class 4 is qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, this class is considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*
The Project falls within the exemption found in Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), which is not qualified by consideration of location.
- b. *Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

No significant cumulative impacts over time are anticipated. This Project is not a part of a larger project.

- c. *Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

There are no “unusual circumstances” that would create a reasonable possibility of significant environmental impacts. All construction will be performed under “no flow” conditions in the wash to preclude potential impacts to water quality. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used that are appropriate for this type of project activity.

- d. *Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway*

The Project will not damage the scenic resources as it will be a temporary project. Once work is completed the area will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

- e. *Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of Government Code.*

The Project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- f. *Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

There is no anticipated substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Project is excavating (exposing) a natural gas pipeline, recoating the pipeline to meet DOT tolerances and recovering the exposed pipeline.

C. Determination

The issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

The Colorado River Basin Water Board concludes that no exceptions to the CEQA exemptions listed above apply to the activities approved by this Order.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062.)

Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

A copy of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ can be found at the State Water Board's [Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification and Wetlands Program webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html).