



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: **7021 1970 0002 0497 5042**

August 28, 2024

Southern California Edison
Victoria Parsons, Water Quality Section Manager
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue GO-1, Environmental Services
Rosemead, CA 91770
Victoria.Parsons@sce.com

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER 2004-0004-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, TD1882415 EMERALD WAY POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID NO. 7A363056001), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Dear Ms. Parsons,

On February 23, 2024, Southern California Edison (SCE or Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order 2004-0004-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* (General Order). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds that the dredge and fill discharges associated with the TD1882415 Emerald Way Pole Replacement (Project) meet the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under the General Order and may proceed with the Project in accordance therewith.

A copy of the General Order is attached. The General Order can also be found on the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of the General Order. You are responsible for complying with all applicable requirements. Failure to comply with the

PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

SCE is continually repairing, maintaining, upgrading, and replacing distribution facilities throughout its service territory. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are necessary to ensure safe, reliable service as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission. The purpose of the Project is to remove one wood utility pole (1697468E) and replace it with a new composite pole. The Project will result in 0.004 acres and 20 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the state, within an isolated watershed not under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The new pole will be set by hand. A new hole will be dug by hand or by a machine auger within a 3-foot radius of the old pole. Standard excavation depths range between 6 and 10 feet with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet, resulting in approximately 2.62 cubic yards of native soil material temporarily stored adjacent to the new hole. The area of soil disturbance (i.e., excavation, side casting, and backfill) would be limited to approximately 10 feet around the pole. The pole will be accessed by foot from Emerald Way. Use of a composite pole allows the new pole to be carried in on foot and assembled onsite to forgo the need for vehicle access. Upon completion, the disturbed area will be returned to pre-Project contours.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located on private land approximately 620 feet east of the intersection of Emerald Way and Viola Lane in the unincorporated community of Landers, San Bernardino County, California. This area is within Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 5 East. The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A.

Site	Latitude	Longitude
1697468E	34.276872°	-116.416637°

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED

Payment for the application fee in the amount of \$ 2,985 was received on February 9, 2024. 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 – Low Impact Discharges" (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that the enrollment of this Project under the General Order, which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the Project, is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, the issuance of this Notice of Applicability and the Project described herein meet the criteria for a Class 1 categorical exemption for “existing facilities” under the CEQA Guidelines. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301.) No exceptions to the CEQA exemption listed above apply. Additional CEQA findings are set forth in Attachment B to this Notice.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The Discharger must implement the measures identified in the Temporary Impact Restoration Plan submitted with the Project application, as well as comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Upon Project completion, SCE shall submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT) requesting termination of regulatory coverage under the General Order. The NOT form is provided in Attachment 2 to the General Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Logan Raub, 401 Water Quality Certification Program Manager, at (760) 776-8966 or at Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Originally 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 2004-0004-DWQ

LR/

File: WDID: 7A363056001, RM: 456182, Place ID: 893943, TD1882415 Emerald Way Pole Replacement Project, Order 2004-0004-DWQ

cc: [via email only] (with enclosures):

Casey Quon, SCE: casey.quon@sce.com
San Bernardino County Environmental Health: adela.evans@dph.sbcounty.gov

Southern California Edison
TD1882415 Emerald Way
Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363056001
Reg. Meas. ID: 456182
Place ID: 893943

San Bernardino County Planning Department: nichollette.marquez@lus.sbcounty.gov

San Bernardino County Flood Control District: David.Drake@dpw.sbcounty.gov

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: BLM_CA_Web_CD@blm.gov

USEPA Region IX 401 Program: R9cwa401@epa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: matt_hamman@fws.gov

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 6: Heather.Brashear@wildlife.ca.gov

DDW, State Water Resources Control Board: Chun.Huang@waterboards.ca.gov

CA Department of Toxic Substances: Katie.butler@dtsc.ca.gov

CA Department of Transportation – District 8: john.chisholm@dot.ca.gov

CA Department of Water Resources: bob.pierotti@water.ca.gov

401 Program, DWQ, State Water Resources Control Board:

Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

CA Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery: WPCMDivision@Calrecycle.ca.gov

Attachment A Project Maps

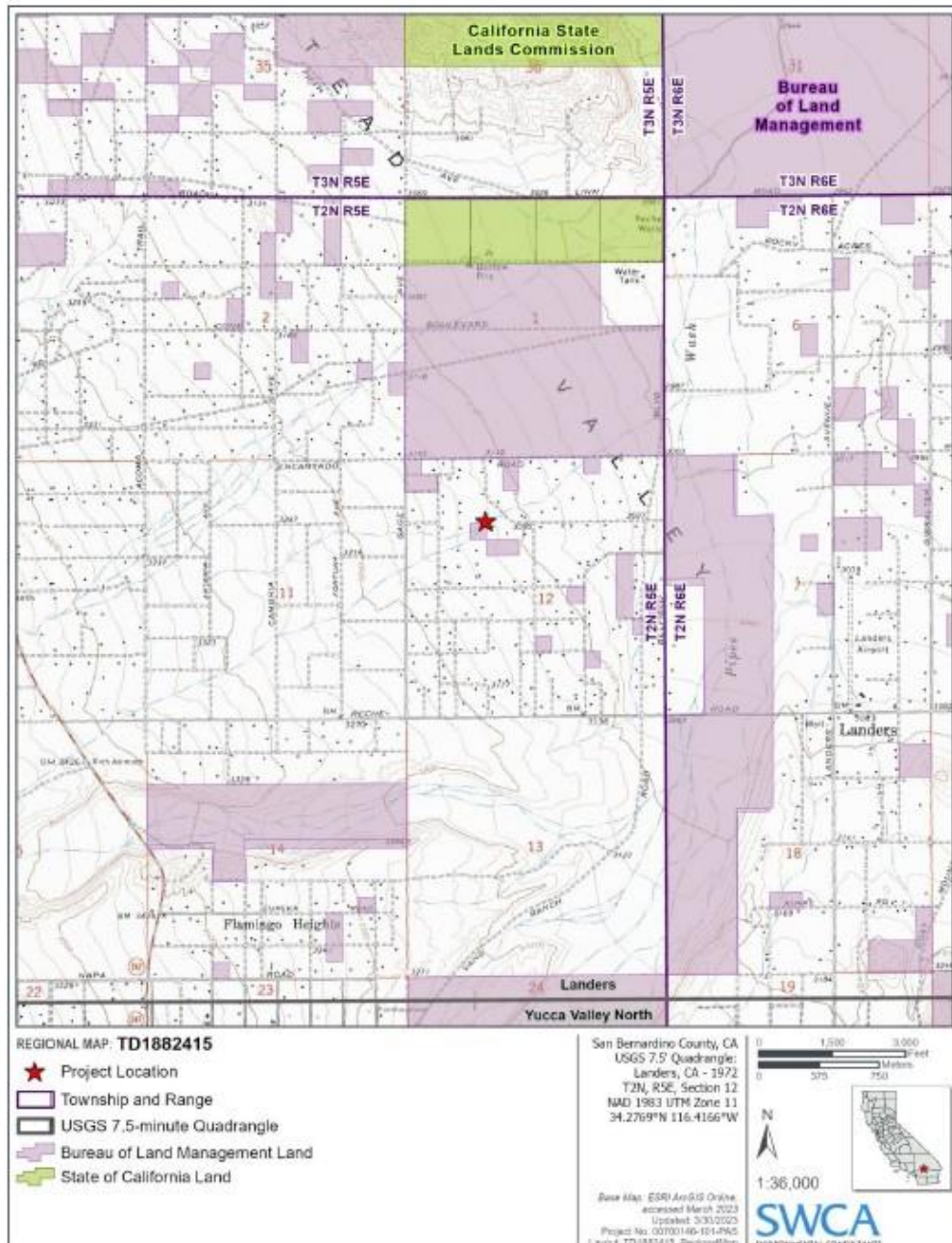


Figure 1: Regional Location Map¹

¹Southern California Edison, February, 2024. Figures and photos submitted by SCE with the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD2040869 Meridian Avenue Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, received by the Regional Water Board on February 23, 2024



Figure 2: Vicinity Map

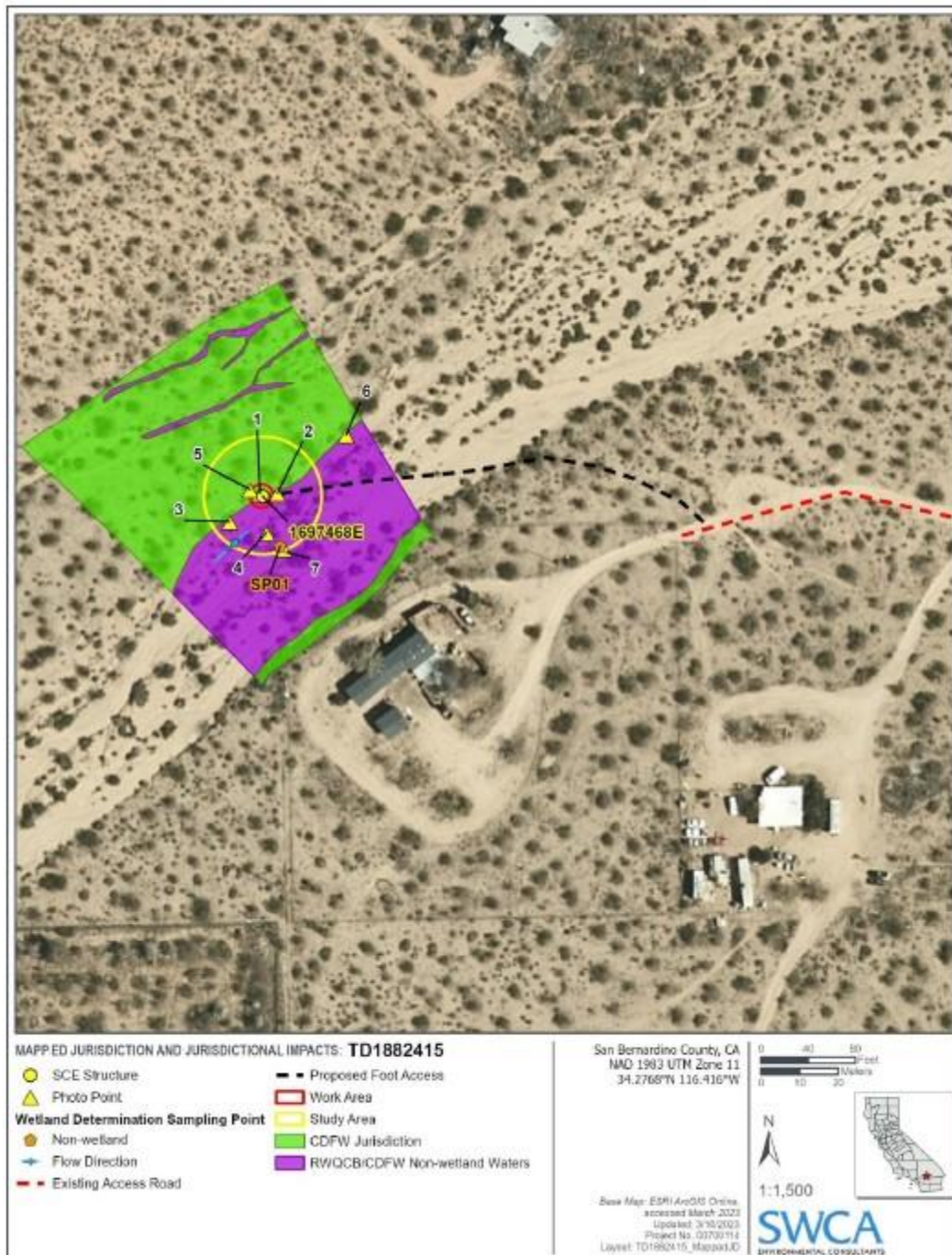


Figure 3: Mapped Jurisdiction and Jurisdictional Impacts.



Figure 3: Pole base adjacent to the Ordinary High Water Mark. Photo facing southwest (upstream).



Figure 4: Pole overview. Photo facing southwest (upstream).

Attachment B CEQA Findings

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) [e]xisting 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 exemption, per section 15301 (Existing Facilities), because the Project involves removing and replacing one wood utility poles with a new composite pole. The Project will not result in an expansion of use.

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

Southern California Edison
TD2040869 Meridian Avenue
Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project

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WDID: 7A363052001
Reg. Meas. ID: 456214
Place ID: 893975

Order 2004-0004-DWQ

A copy of Order 2004-0004-DWQ can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html