



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: **7021 1970 0002 0497 5059**

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, TD1979617 TRANSMISSION LINE ROAD
POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID NO. 7A363059001), SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY**

Dear Ms. Parsons,

On May 24, 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 or fill discharges associated with the TD1979617 Transmission Line Road Pole Replacement (Project) meets the requirements for enrollment. You are hereby enrolled under the General Order and may proceed with the Project in accordance with the General Order.

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

PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

Southern California Edison 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 (1977202E) and replace it with a new composite pole.

The new pole will be set by hand. A new hole will be dug by hand or by a machine auger about 1 foot northeast from the current pole location. Standard excavation depths range between 6 and 9 feet with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet, resulting in approximately 2.27 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 along with a general 25-foot temporary work area for staging and operation of construction equipment and vehicles. The pole will be accessed via overland truck by traveling approximately 170 feet from Transmission Line Road.

The Project will result in 0.024 acres and 50 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). No permanent impacts were identified. Upon Project completion, the disturbed areas will be returned to pre--Project contours.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, approximately 1 mile northeast of the intersection of Powerline Road and Transmission Line Road in the unincorporated community of Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County, California. This area is within Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 4 East.

The latitude and longitude of the impacted area is listed below. Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this Order.

Site	Latitude	Longitude
1977202E	34.630465°	-116.599509°

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED

Payment for the application fee in the amount of \$2,985 was received on May 5, 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 (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. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the Project described herein meet the criteria for a Class 1 exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301 [Existing Facilities]) under the CEQA Guidelines (*Id.*, § 15000 et seq.). 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 avoidance and minimization measures to minimize adverse impacts to waters of the state and comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Upon completion of the Project, SCE shall submit a completed Notice of Termination (NOT) form requesting to be disenrolled under the General Order. The NOT form is included 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

Southern California Edison
TD1979617 Transmission Line
Road Pole Replacement Project

- 4 -

WDID: 7A363059001
Reg. Meas. ID: 457256
Place ID: 895219

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

LR/

File: WDID: 7A363059001, RM: 457256, Place ID: 895219, TD1979617 Transmission Line
Road Pole Replacement Project, Order 2004-0004-DWQ

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

Casey Quon, SCE: casey.quon@sce.com

Lauren Zmeito, SCE: lauren.a.zameito@sce.com

San Bernardino County Environmental Health: adela.evans@dph.sbcounty.gov

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

401 Program, DWQ, State Water Resources Control Board:

Stateboard401.Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

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

Attachments

Attachment A: Project Maps

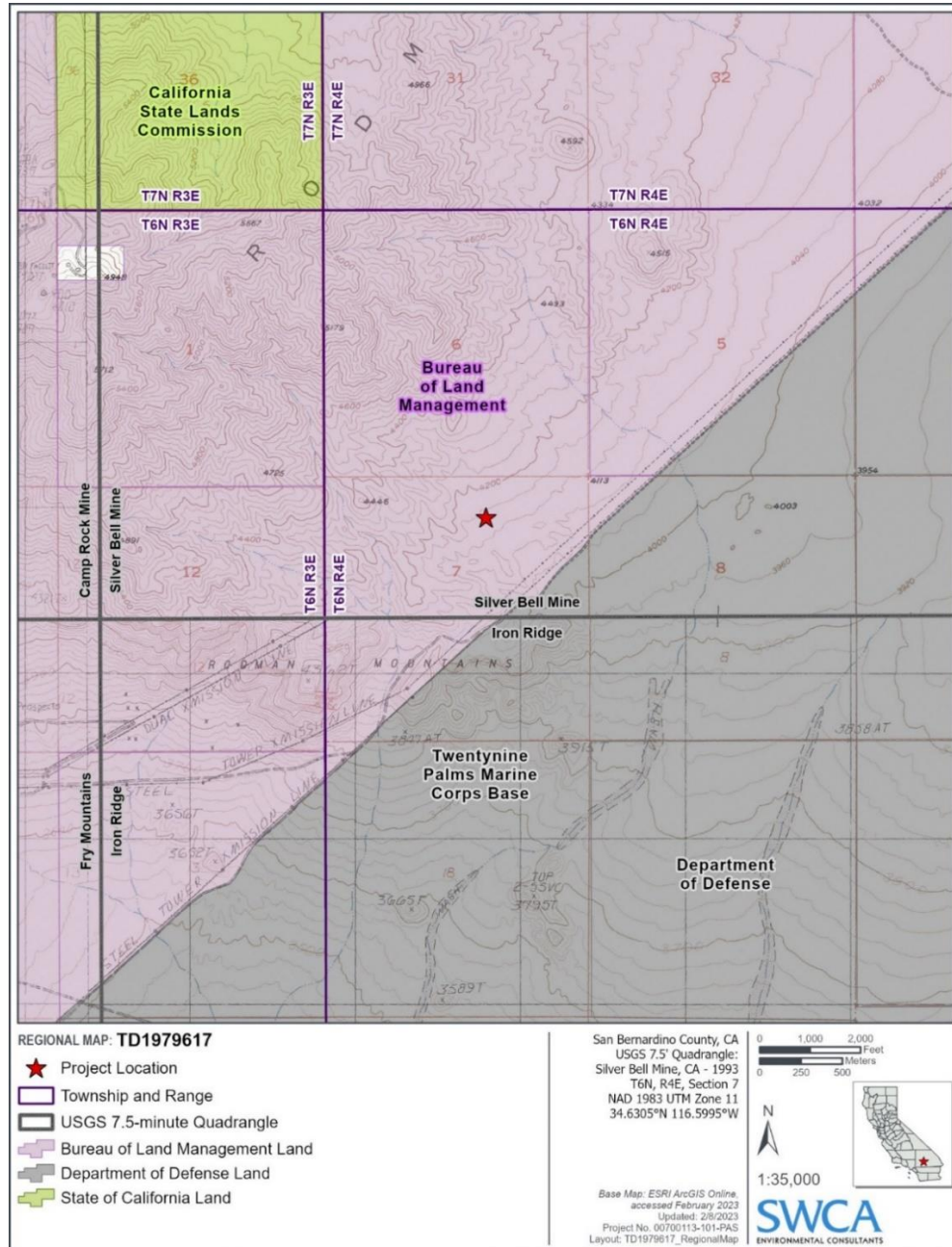


Figure 1: Regional Location Map (SCE, 2024)¹

¹Southern California Edison, May 2024. Figures and photos submitted by SCE with the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Southern California Edison TD1979317 Transmission Line Road Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project, received by the Regional Water Boards on March 24, 2024.

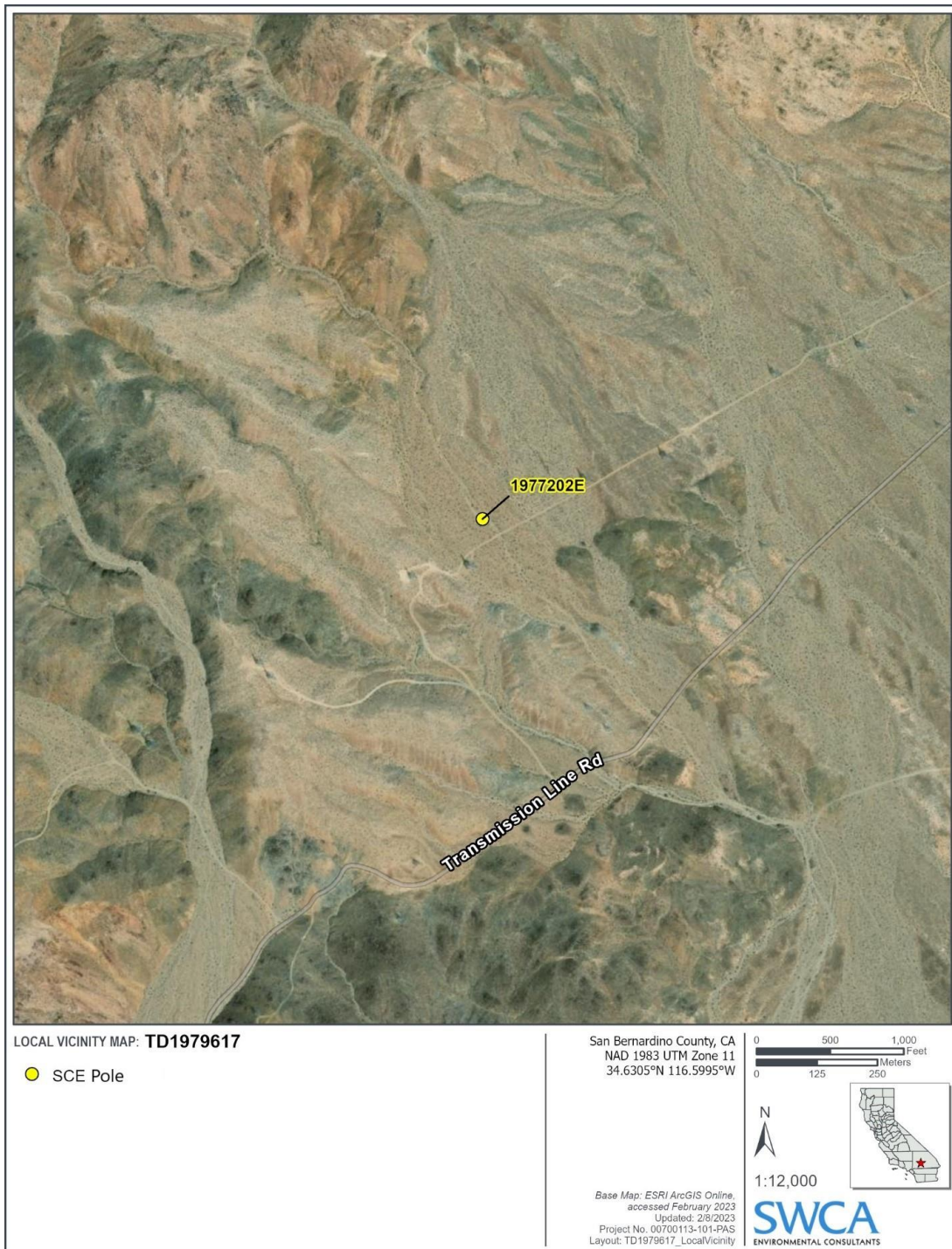


Figure 2: Vicinity Map

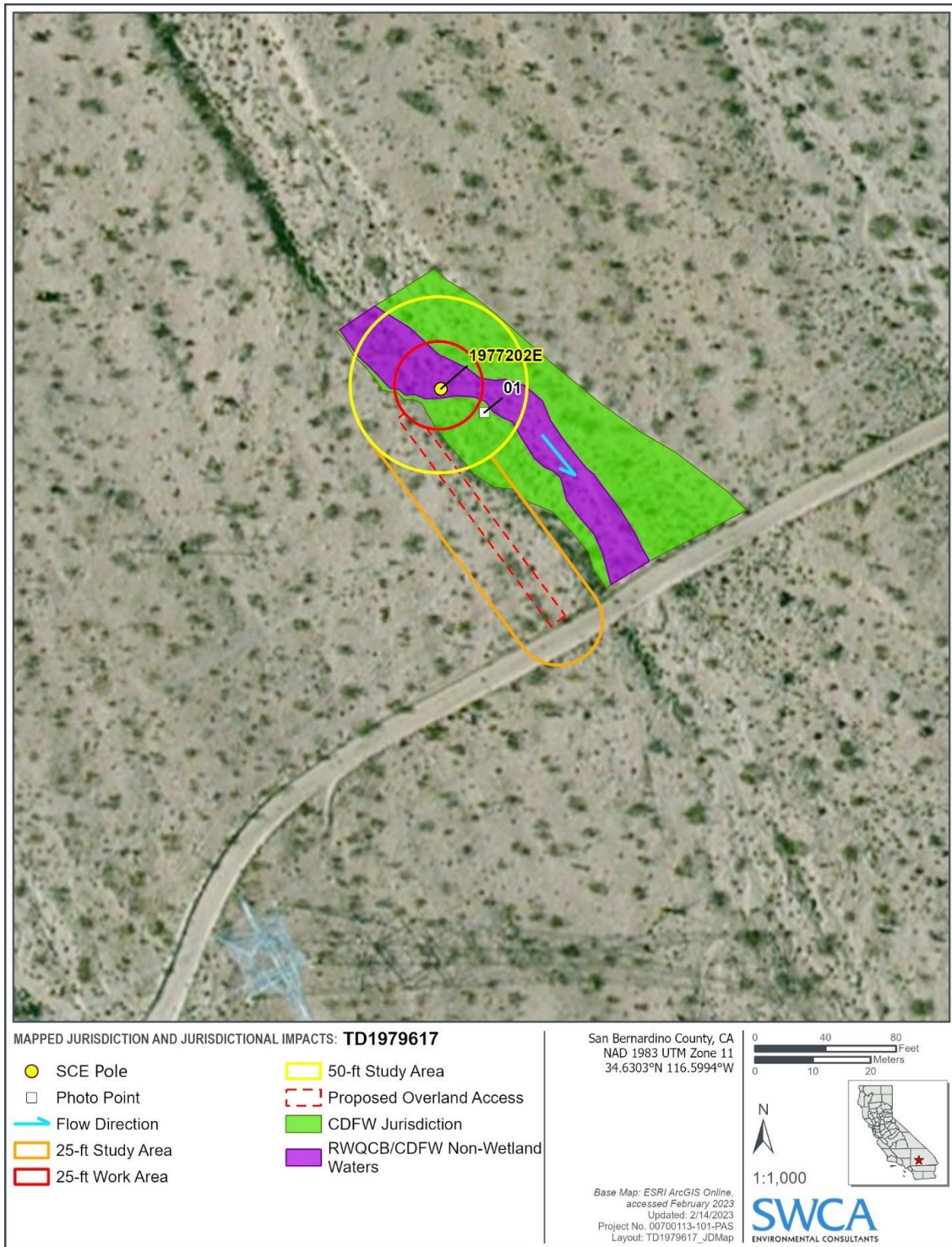


Figure 3: Mapped Jurisdiction and Jurisdictional Impacts.



Figure 4: Overview of Pole 1977202E and drainage feature.
Photo is facing upstream (northwest).

Attachment B CEQA Findings

I. 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, section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

II. 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.”, and “(d) [r]estoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.”

The Project falls within the exemption per section 15301 (Existing Facilities), because the Project involves the repair/maintenance of an investor -owned utility that is used to provide electric power. The Project will not result in an expansion of use. No exceptions to the exemption were identified.

III. Determination

The enrollment of this Project under the General Order, which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the Project, 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 exemption listed above apply to the activities approved by extending regulatory coverage under the General Order.

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

Southern California Edison
TD1979617 Transmission Line
Road Pole Replacement Project

- 10 -

WDID: 7A363059001
Reg. Meas. ID: 457256
Place ID: 895219

Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ

A copy of Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ can be found at:

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