

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298**FILED**10-17-16
03:33 PM

October 17, 2016

Agenda ID # 15255
Ratesetting

TO PARTIES OF RECORD IN APPLICATION 14-12-013:

This is the proposed decision of Administrative Law Judge Kelly A. Hymes. Until and unless the Commission hears the item and votes to approve it, the proposed decision has no legal effect. This item may be heard, at the earliest, at the Commission's December 1, 2016 Business Meeting. To confirm when the item will be heard, please see the Business Meeting agenda, which is posted on the Commission's website 10 days before each Business Meeting.

Parties of record may file comments on the proposed decision as provided in Rule 14.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

/s/ KAREN V. CLOPTONKaren V. Clopton, Chief
Administrative Law Judge

KVC: ge1

Attachment

Decision PROPOSED DECISION OF ALJ HYMES (Mailed 10/17/2016)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMPANY (U338E) for a Permit to
Construct Electrical Facilities with Voltages
Between 50 kV and 200 kV: Valley South
115kV Subtransmission Project.

Application 14-12-013
(Filed December 15, 2014)

**DECISION ADDRESSING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMPANY APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT
THE VALLEY SOUTH 115 KILOVOLT SUBTRANSMISSION PROJECT**

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**DECISION ADDRESSING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMPANY APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT
THE VALLEY SOUTH 115 KILOVOLT SUBTRANSMISSION PROJECT****Summary**

This decision grants Southern California Edison Company (SCE) a permit to construct the Valley South 115 kilovolt (kV) Subtransmission Project (Valley South Project) using the Alternative 2, as identified in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Construction of the Valley South Project, between the City of Menifee and the City of Temecula, California, will ensure the availability of safe and reliable electricity service and provide additional capacity to serve existing and long-term forecasted demand requirements, while maintaining or improving system reliability and providing greater operational flexibility.

The Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE, recommended modification of the existing Valley 500/115 kV substation; construction of a new, 12-mile, 115 kV subtransmission line; replacement of 3.4 miles of existing conductor; relocation of existing distribution and telecommunication lines; and installation of telecommunication facilities to connect the Valley South Project to SCE's existing telecommunication system. SCE's proposal would have significant unmitigable impacts on visual resources. SCE's proposal would also have significant unmitigable impacts on cultural and paleontological resources including the potential for discovering human remains or unknown Native American cultural resources. Additionally, SCE's proposal would have several significant impacts that with mitigation can be reduced to a less-than-significant impact. Finally, SCE's proposal would have other impacts that are adverse but would not require mitigation.

As the Lead Agency for environmental review of the Valley South Project, we find that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for this project meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, *et seq.*, and that the construction of the Valley South Project using Alternative 2, as set forth in the EIR, will reduce potentially significant visual resources impacts by placing a portion of the proposed 115 kV subtransmission line underground in a new right of way. In regard to the cultural resources, the EIR concluded only the selection of the no build alternative could mitigate impacts to cultural resources (i.e., unanticipated disturbance of human remains) at a cost of meeting none of the objectives of the project.

To address all of the impacts of the Valley South Project, this decision requires SCE to comply with the mitigation measures we adopt as part of the EIR and attached to this decision as Appendix B. The mitigation measures also specifically address the possible impact of disturbing human remains or unknown cultural artifacts by requiring that SCE consult with representatives of the Band of Luiseño Indians to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan prior to beginning construction. If unknown remains or artifacts are discovered, construction work in the immediate area shall be halted and the Commission shall be informed immediately.

In weighing the need for the Valley South Project, the Commission finds that while Alternative 2 results in significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural and paleontological resources despite the proposed mitigation efforts, Alternative 2 meets all the objectives of the project. This constitutes overriding considerations which justify approval of the Valley South Project despite the unavoidable environmental effects.

Furthermore, we find that SCE has complied with California Public Utilities Commission requirements to identify no-cost and low-cost measures to be implemented to reduce potential electric and magnetic fields.

This proceeding is closed.

1. Procedural Background

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is an investor-owned public utility operating an interconnected and integrated electric utility system that generates, transmits, and distributes electric energy in portions of Central and Southern California.¹ On December 15, 2014, SCE filed application (A.) 14-12-013 (Application), requesting California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) authorization for a permit to construct the Valley South 115 kiloVolt (kV) Subtransmission Project (Valley South Project). Simultaneously, SCE filed its Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA).

Due process requires that affected parties be provided adequate notice and opportunity to be heard, such that they can timely protest and participate in the Commission's environmental review and analysis of the Valley South Project. For permits to construct (PTCs), the utility must comply with notice requirements described in General Order (GO) 131-D, Section XI.A. SCE represents that it has complied with all applicable notice requirements and submitted documents to support this representation.²

¹ SCE's service territory is located in 15 counties in Central and Southern California, consisting of Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Tuolumne and Ventura Counties, and includes approximately 179 incorporated communities and outlying rural territories. SCE also supplies electricity to certain customers for resale under tariffs filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

² SCE Application, Appendices D and E.

SCE's Application was noticed in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 19, 2014. No protests were filed; hence, no hearings were held.

2. Governing Law

2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The primary vehicle for consideration of the authority sought by this Application is established by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Sections 21000 (Pub. Res. Code), *et. seq.* CEQA requires the lead agency, the Commission in this case, to conduct a review to identify environmental impacts of the project and ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage.

In preparing the EIR, the lead agency must consider alternatives to the project, including the alternative of no project at all ("no project" alternative). The lead agency must identify all significant and potentially significant impacts of the project, must identify the mitigation measures available to lessen those impacts, and must determine whether those mitigation measures would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

If the EIR concludes that a project will have a significant impact on the environment even after all reasonable mitigation measures are applied, any approval that is granted must be accompanied by a statement of overriding considerations explaining why the project should still be approved. The authorization that is finally issued must be conditioned on completion of any adopted mitigation measures.

CEQA precludes the lead agency from approving a proposed project unless it requires the project proponent to eliminate or substantially lessen all significant effects on the environment where feasible, and determines that any unavoidable remaining significant effects are acceptable due to overriding

considerations. CEQA requires that, prior to approving the project or a project alternative, the lead agency certify that the environmental review was conducted in compliance with CEQA, that it reviewed and considered the EIR prior to approving the project or a project alternative, and that the EIR reflects its independent judgment.³

2.2 Permit to Construct

The Commission has adopted GO 131- D as part of its review process under CEQA. GO 131-D, Sec. III.B requires utilities to first obtain Commission authorization in the form of a PTC before beginning construction of an electric “power line.” GO 131-D, Sec. I defines an electric “power line” as one designed to operate between 50 kV and 200 kV. In contrast to applications seeking certificates of public convenience and necessity, GO 131-D does not require PTC applications for electric power lines to include an analysis of purpose and necessity, an estimate of cost and an economic analysis, a schedule or an in-depth description of construction methods beyond that required for CEQA compliance.⁴ However, GO 131-D requires PTC applications to provide the following:

1. A description of the proposed facilities, a map, reasons why the proposed route was selected over potential alternative routes, positions of the government agencies having undertaken review of the project, and a PEA.⁵

³ Pub. Res. Code Section 21082.1(c)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15090.

⁴ GO 131-D, Sec. IX.B.1.f.

⁵ GO 131-D, Sec. IX.B.1.

2. Compliance with the provisions of CEQA related to the proposed project, including the requirement to meet various public notice provisions.⁶
3. Measures to be taken or proposed by the utility to reduce the potential for exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF) generated by the proposed project in compliance with the Commission's policies governing the mitigation of electromagnetic field effects using low-cost and no-cost measures.⁷

The following discussion includes an analysis of this Application under the CEQA and GO 131-D.

3. The SCE Proposal

In its application, SCE states that its proposal for the Valley South Project will provide additional capacity to serve the cities of Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula, and portions of unincorporated southwestern Riverside County (Electrical Needs Area or ENA). The ENA is currently served by the Valley South 115 kV Subtransmission System, a network of three 115 kV power lines (Valley-Sun City, Valley-Auld, and Valley-Auld-Triton) that provides electrical service to the distribution substations located within the ENA.

The estimated cost of the Valley South Project is approximately \$50.2 million in 2014 constant dollars. SCE explains that the Valley South Project is needed in 2016 due to a projection that two of its subtransmission lines (the Valley-Auld and Valley-Sun City) may exceed the maximum operating limit under peak electrical demand conditions and abnormal system conditions. Furthermore, under peak electrical demand conditions and a normal system

⁶ GO 131-D, Sec. IX.B.2-5.

⁷ GO 131-D, Sec. X.A.

configuration the maximum operating limit of the Valley-Sun City subtransmission is projected to be exceeded in 2018. SCE contends that the construction of the Valley South Project will address both the abnormal and normal system condition overloads and will result in the formation of the Valley-Auld No. 2 and the Valley Triton 115 kV subtransmission lines.⁸

The Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE, consists of five major elements: 1) Modification of the existing Valley 500/115 kV substation; 2) Construction of a new, 12-mile, 115 kV above ground subtransmission line primarily along Leon Road; 3) Replacement of 3.4 miles of existing conductor; 4) Relocation of existing distribution and telecommunication lines; and 5) Installation of new telecommunication facilities.

SCE's application for the Valley South Project included a project description, a map of the project, reasons for selecting the proposed route, a list of government agencies and their positions on the project, and a PEA.⁹

4. Environmental Review

CEQA requires that the Commission consider the environmental consequences before acting upon or approving the Valley South Project.¹⁰ Under CEQA, the Commission must act as either the Lead Agency or a Responsible Agency for project approval. The Lead Agency is the public agency with the greatest responsibility for supervising or approving the Valley South Project as a

⁸ SCE notes that a mitigation plan has been developed since its proposed project is not expected to be operational until 2020.

⁹ SCE Application at 8-12.

¹⁰ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15050(b).

whole.¹¹ Here, the Commission is the Lead Agency. The actions and steps taken for environmental review of the Valley South Project, in accordance with GO 131-D and CEQA, are discussed below.

4.1 Proponent's Environmental Assessment

SCE included its PEA with the Application, pursuant to GO 131-D, Section IX.B.1.e.¹² The PEA evaluates the environmental impacts that may result from the construction and operation of the Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE. SCE's PEA contains project descriptions in chapters 1 through 5, and maps and diagrams throughout the PEA but most notably in chapters 3 and 4.

The PEA concludes that the Valley South Project as proposed by SCE would result in potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological, cultural (paleontological), traffic and transportation resources; these impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the Applicant's Proposed Measures (APMs).¹³ The PEA additionally concludes that impacts to aesthetics during operation are expected to remain significant and unavoidable. The PEA states that the SCE proposed project would result in a substantial change to views from a neighborhood trail and residences along Leon Road as the SCE proposed project would install new wood poles where no above ground electrical poles currently exist.¹⁴

We find the APMs to be reasonable. We adopt the APMs as part of our approval of the Valley South Project, and require SCE to comply with the APMs.

¹¹ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15051(b).

¹² The PEA was prepared solely by SCE.

¹³ SCE PEA at Table 3.13.

¹⁴ SCE PEA at 1-11.

4.2 Draft Environmental Impact Report

As the next step in the environmental review, the Commission's Energy Division (Energy Division) reviewed the PEA. On April 2, 2015, the Energy Division informed SCE by letter that the Application was deemed complete for purposes of reviewing environmental impacts. In May 2015, the Energy Division prepared and published a Notice of Preparation and held a 30-day comment period, as required by CEQA.¹⁵ On January 29, 2016, the Energy Division released for public review a Draft EIR for the Apple Valley Project, as proposed by SCE.¹⁶

The Draft EIR determined that the SCE proposed project would have significant unmitigable impacts on visual resources and cultural resources, significant impacts that can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation, and other impacts that are adverse but would not require mitigation.

The Draft EIR included analysis of the environmental effects of the Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE, on thirteen environmental issue areas: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, recreation, and transportation and traffic.

¹⁵ The Notice of Preparation was distributed to the public, regulatory agencies, interested parties, and property owners within 300 feet of the proposed project alignment. Seven comment letters were received from agencies and the public in response to the notice. See EIR at C.1-1.

¹⁶ A September 14, 2016 Administrative Law Judge Ruling identified, marked and received into the record the Draft EIR.

Additionally, CEQA requires an EIR to consider alternatives to the SCE proposed project, including a no project alternative.¹⁷ Hence, nine alternatives were identified and evaluated as part of the EIR analysis. All identified alternatives were considered and a rationale was provided for any alternatives that were eliminated from consideration in the Draft EIR.¹⁸ Alternatives were screened according to CEQA guidelines to determine those alternatives to analyze in the EIR and alternatives to eliminate from detailed consideration.¹⁹ Three alternatives were evaluated in the Draft EIR in addition to the SCE proposed project: Alternative 1 – Subtransmission Line Route Alternative along Menifee Road, Alternative 2 – Partial Underground Alternative, and Alternative 3 – No Project, No Build (required by CEQA).

The Draft EIR finds that the Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE, will result in significant and unavoidable impacts to the issue areas of aesthetics and cultural resources. In the 10 issue areas where mitigation measures have been identified, impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level, with one issue area determined to be less-than significant without mitigation. Four-issue areas result in no impacts.²⁰

The Draft EIR also finds that the environmentally superior alternative would be the No Project Alternative. However, when the No Project Alternative is determined to be environmentally superior, CEQA requires identification of an

¹⁷ CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6.

¹⁸ EIR at Section D. Alternatives.

¹⁹ EIR at D.2.

²⁰ The four-issue areas are Population/Housing, Minerals, Public Services, and Utilities/Service Systems.

environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.²¹ Hence, the Draft EIR finds that the environmentally superior alternative is Alternative 2, Partial Underground Alternative.

Alternative 2 reduces the significant visual impact associated with the SCE proposal. The Draft EIR notes that Alternatives 1 and 2 have similar impacts in the issue area of cultural resources and reduce the impacts in the issue area of aesthetics by reducing visual impacts. However, Alternative 1 would be a longer route and would affect more land area than Alternative 2. Hence, the Draft EIR finds Alternative 2 to be the least environmentally damaging alternative.

While Alternative 2 is found to be the least environmentally damaging alternative, impacts to cultural resources would remain the same. We address these impacts in more detail below. We highlight that, consistent with Assembly Bill 52, the Energy Division consulted with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga) and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Both expressed concern regarding the impact of the Valley South Project on tribal cultural resources. However, only Pechanga provided written comments to the draft EIR.²²

- Impact CR-1: Implementation of the Valley South Project could demolish, destroy, relocate, or disturb a cultural resource in a manner that would diminish its integrity or materially impact its significance. (Class II Impact – Significant impact that can be reduced to a level that is not significant.) The Draft EIR describes 17 eligible cultural resources located within the Alternative 2 project area and explains that these can be avoided completely and

²¹ CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2).

²² See Responses to Comments, EIR at Appendix 5.

will not experience any impact with the implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 (Avoid Environmentally Sensitive Areas). However, unknown buried resources could be inadvertently unearthed during construction. Direct impacts to potentially significant cultural resources without mitigation would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measures C-4 (Conduct Construction Monitoring)²³ and C-6 (Treat Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources)²⁴ address these discoveries. Mitigation Measure C-7 (Properly Treat Human Remains)²⁵ addresses how to reduce impacts to human remains. There is a potential to uncover human remains and thus impacts to human remains would remain significant and unavoidable even with the mitigation measures.

- Impact CR-2: Implementation of the Valley South Project could uncover, expose, and/or damage human remains. (Class I Impact: Significant impact that cannot be mitigated to a level that is not significant.) While no human remains are known to be located within the project area, buried remains have been discovered within a mile of the area. Thus a potential exists for unmarked burials to be inadvertently disturbed during construction. Such impacts to human remains accidentally discovered can be reduced through the implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-7. However, this would not reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

²³ Archeological and Tribal monitoring shall occur in all areas of ground-disturbing activity that occur within 100 feet of a cultural resource.

²⁴ If a previously unidentified cultural resource is discovered, construction will halt immediately.

²⁵ If remains are discovered, all work shall be diverted from the area and the remains shall be treated in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. As required by mitigation measure CR-7, SCE shall consult with the Band of Luiseño Indians or other interested Native American tribes regarding such discoveries.

- Impact CR-3: Construction of the Valley South Project would destroy or disturb significant paleontological resources. (Class II Impact – Significant impact that can be reduced to a level that is not significant.) The potential to discover paleontological resources during the project development ranges from very low to high based on the location and type of ground-disturbing activities. These impacts would be reduced with implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-8 (Inventory and Evaluate Resources), Mitigation Measure CR-9 (Develop Mitigation and Monitoring Plan), Mitigation Measure CR-10 (Training Construction Personnel), Mitigation Measure CR-11 (Monitor Construction) and Mitigation Measure CR-12 (Curation and Final Reporting.)

The Draft EIR was distributed to federal, state and local agencies; property owners within 300 feet of the Apple Valley Project; and other interested parties (identified in the Draft EIR). A Public Notice of the Valley South Project, as proposed by SCE, also was published in the local newspaper, announcing the availability of the Draft EIR. The 30-day public review and comment period ended on March 14, 2016.

Comment letters on the Draft EIR were received from the Eastern Municipal Water District, the City of Menifee Community Development Department, Blum Collins LLP, the Penchanga Band of Luiseno Indians, the individuals listed in Appendix A of this decision, and SCE.

4.3 Final EIR

A Final EIR was prepared pursuant to CEQA guidelines, and issued by the Energy Division on June 13, 2016.²⁶ The Final EIR addresses all aspects of the

²⁶ A September 14, 2016 Administrative Law Judge Ruling identified, marked and received into the record the Final EIR. The Final EIR is available at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/valleysouth/ValleySouth.htm>

Draft EIR, includes the comments received on the Draft EIR and the responses to those comments by the Lead Agency, and includes a Mitigation Monitoring Plan.²⁷

Although revisions were made to clarify and modify certain mitigation measures described in the Draft EIR, the Final EIR does not identify any new significant environmental impacts, and does not omit any existing mitigation measures, from those identified in the Draft EIR. The Final EIR includes two new appendices: 1) Comments and Responses (on the Draft EIR), and 2) Mitigation Monitoring Report.

As required by CEQA, the Final EIR also included a Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Program, referred to as the Mitigation Monitoring Plan.²⁸ The Mitigation Monitoring Plan, attached to this decision as Appendix B, describes the mitigation measures, specifically details how each mitigation measure will be implemented, and includes information on the timing of implementation and monitoring requirements.²⁹ Furthermore, a third-party environmental monitor, designated by the Commission, will carry out all construction field monitoring to ensure full implementation of all measures. Non-compliance monitoring steps are included as part of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan. We find the Mitigation Monitoring Plan to be reasonable and should be adopted as part of the approval of the Valley South Project.

²⁷ The comments received and responses to the comments are included in the Final EIR as Appendix 5 and the Mitigation Monitoring Plan is Appendix 6.

²⁸ CEQA Guideline Section 15097.

²⁹ EIR at Appendix 6.

After release of the Final EIR, [Blum Collins LLC](#) submitted a letter on behalf of the Southern California Environmental Justice Alliance. A memorandum was prepared to address the comments made in the Blum Collins letter ([Supplementary Appendix](#) to the Final EIR).

Before granting the Application, we must consider the Final EIR.³⁰ We find that the Final EIR (which incorporates the Draft EIR and the Supplementary Appendix) was prepared in compliance with and meet the requirements of CEQA, including all notice requirements. We further find that on the basis of the whole record, the Valley South Project, using Alternative 2, will have the least significant effect on the environment and that the Final EIR reflects the Commission's independent judgments and analysis.³¹ We adopt the Final EIR in its entirety.

5. Electric and Magnetic Fields

The Commission has examined EMF impacts in several previous proceedings.³² We found the scientific evidence presented in those proceedings was uncertain as to the possible health effects of EMFs and we did not find it appropriate to adopt any related numerical standards. Because there is no agreement among scientists that exposure to EMF creates any potential health risk, and because CEQA does not define or adopt any standards to address the potential health risk impacts of possible exposure to EMFs, the Commission does not consider magnetic fields in the context of CEQA and determination of environmental impacts.

³⁰ CEQA Guideline Section 15004(a).

³¹ CEQA Guideline Section 15074(b).h

³² See Decision (D.) 06-01-042 and D.93-11-013.

However, recognizing that public concern remains, we do require, pursuant to GO 131-D, Section X.A., that all requests for a PTC include a description of the measures taken or proposed by the utility to reduce the potential for exposure to EMFs generated by a proposed project. We developed a policy that requires utilities, among other things, to identify the no-cost measures undertaken, and the low-cost measures implemented, to reduce the potential EMF impacts. The benchmark established for low-cost measures is 4 percent of the total budgeted project cost that results in an EMF reduction of at least 15 percent (as measured at the edge of the utility right-of-way).

The Field Management Plan contained in the Application addresses the EMF measures that will be taken in connection with the Valley South Project.³³ As no-cost and low-cost options, SCE will ensure that the subtransmission structure heights meet or exceed SCE's preferred EMF design criteria; subtransmission line construction reduces spacing between conductors; conductors of proposed subtransmission lines are arranged for magnetic field reduction; underground subtransmission contraction is utilized for engineering reasons; and underground cables of the proposed subtransmission line are arranged for magnetic field reduction. SCE's Field Management Plan complies with GO 131-D; hence it is reasonable to adopt the Field Management Plan for the Valley South Project and require SCE to comply with it.

6. Conclusion

We have reviewed the Application and, after considering all of the above requirements, find it complete in that it contains the items listed in Section 2.2 of

³³ Exhibit F.

this decision and it is compliant with GO 131-D. As further described below, based on the analysis of the Draft and Final EIRs, and the mitigation measures identified therein and incorporated into the Valley South Project, the Commission finds that the Valley South Project, using Alternative 2 set forth in the Final EIR will have the least damaging impact on the environment.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080 and CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a), we may not approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant effects on the environment that would occur if the project is approved or carried out unless we make one or more of the following findings with respect to each significant effect:

- (i) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment;
- (ii) Those changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and have been, or can and should be, adopted by that other agency; or
- (iii) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the environmental impact report.

In compliance with CEQA, the Mitigation Monitoring Plan identifies and mitigates all significant effects on the environment except for the impact on cultural resources, where the implementation of the Valley South Project could uncover, expose and/or damage human remains. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a)(iii) above, we address the overriding considerations.

CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project against its unavoidable

environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project.³⁴ If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered “acceptable.”

Having (i) adopted all feasible mitigation measures, (ii) selected Alternative 2 to the Valley South Project as the least environmentally damaging alternative, (iii) recognized the remaining significant, unavoidable impact, and (iv) balanced the benefits of the Valley South Project in the EIR against the project’s significant and unavoidable impact, the Commission hereby finds that other benefits outweigh and override the significant unavoidable environmental impact.

The Valley South Project will provide safe and reliable electrical needs to the project area, add capacity to serve long forecasted electrical demand requirements, maintain or improve system reliability and provide greater operational flexibility. In particular, the Valley South Project will address both an abnormal and normal system condition overload, which could result in two subtransmission lines exceeding the maximum operating limit. Using Alternative 2 as set forth in the EIR, the Valley South Project’s unavoidable significant environmental impact is acceptable in light of these substantial benefits.

Lastly, we find SCE’s Field Management Plan to be in compliance with the Commission’s EMF requirements.

³⁴ CEQA Guidelines § 15093.

We therefore grant SCE's Application for a PTC. This Decision also adopts the Final EIR (which incorporates the Draft EIR), subject to the conditions therein, and authorizes work on the Valley South Project to begin. Before commencing construction of the Valley South Project using the Alternative 2, as indicated in the EIR, SCE must have in place all required permits, easements or other legal authority for the project site.

7. Categorization and Need for Hearing

In Resolution ALJ 176-3349, issued on January 15, 2015, the Commission preliminarily determined that the category of this proceeding is ratesetting and that hearing would be needed. No party protested the application. Because there were no material contested issues of fact, hearings were unnecessary.

8. Comments on Proposed Decision

The proposed decision of the Administrative Law Judge in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311 of the Public Utilities Code and comments were allowed under Rule 14.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comments were filed on _____, and reply comments were filed on _____ by _____.

9. Assignment of Proceeding

Catherine J.K. Sandoval is the assigned Commissioner and Kelly A. Hymes is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. SCE's Application for a PTC is complete and meets the notification requirements set forth in GO 131-D.
2. The Final EIR (which incorporates the Draft EIR) related to the Valley South Project conforms to the requirements of CEQA.

3. The Final EIR identified one significant environmental impact of the Valley South Project using Alternative 2, as set forth in the Environmental Impact Report, that cannot be avoided or reduced to non-significant levels with the mitigation measures described therein.

4. The Mitigation Management Plan, included as part of the Final EIR, describes the specific mitigation measures to be taken.

5. The measures included in the Mitigation Management Plan are reasonable and consistent with CEQA.

6. Using Alternative 2, Valley South Project's one unavoidable significant environmental impact is acceptable in light of its benefits. Each benefit set forth constitutes an overriding consideration warranting approval of the Valley South Project, independent of the other benefits, the significant unavoidable impact.

7. The Commission considered the Final EIR in deciding to approve the Valley South Project using Alternative 2, as set forth in the Final EIR.

8. SCE has fulfilled all CEQA requirements.

9. The Final EIR reflects the Commission's independent judgment.

10. Based on the mitigation measures included in the Final EIR, the Valley South Project using Alternative 2 will have the least significant impact upon the environment.

11. The Valley South Project includes no-cost and low-cost measures (within the meaning of D.93-11-013, and D.06-01-042) to reduce possible exposure to EMF.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission is the Lead Agency for compliance with the provisions of CEQA.

2. A Draft EIR analyzing the environmental impacts of the Valley South Project was prepared in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.
3. A Final EIR on the Valley South Project was prepared and completed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.
4. The Draft EIR and the Final EIR (which includes the Mitigation Management Plan) are consistent with CEQA and should be adopted in their entirety.
5. SCE should obtain all necessary permits, easement rights or other legal authority for the project site prior to commencing construction.
6. SCE's Application for a PTC should be approved, subject to the mitigation measures set forth in the Final EIR.
7. SCE's Field Management Plan provided in Appendix F of its application should be adopted.
8. This order should be effective immediately so that construction of the Valley South Project can begin.
9. Evidentiary hearings were not necessary.
10. A.14-12-013 should be closed.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company is granted a Permit to Construct the Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project using Alternative 2, as set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report, State Clearing House No. 2015051012.
2. The Commission hereby certifies and adopts in its entirety the Southern California Edison Company Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project (Project) Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse

No. 2015051012, and incorporates it by reference in this decision. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines § 15090, the Commission, as lead agency for the Project, certifies that:

- (i) The EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
- (ii) The EIR was presented to the Commission, and the Commission has received, reviewed, and considered the information contained in the EIR prior to approving the Project; and
- (iii) The EIR reflects the Commission's independent judgment and analysis.

3. The Mitigation Monitoring Plan, included as part of the Final Environmental Impact Report and attached as Appendix B to this decision, is adopted.

4. The Permit to Construct the Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project is subject to the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report, including the Mitigation Monitoring Plan. Southern California Edison Company has agreed to and must comply with each measure and provision of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

5. The Commission's Energy Division must supervise and oversee the construction of the Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project (Valley South Project) insofar as it relates to monitoring and enforcement of the mitigation measures described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Energy Division may designate outside staff to perform on-site monitoring tasks, with all associated costs to be paid by Southern California Edison Company (SCE). Upon review of SCE's compliance with the Mitigation Monitoring Plan, the Energy Division will provide SCE with Notices to Proceed with construction during various phases of the Valley South Project as applicable under the

Mitigation Monitoring Plan. The Commission project manager (Energy Division, Environmental Projects Unit) may issue a Stop Work Order on the entire Valley South Project, or portions thereof, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the mitigation measures described in the EIR. Construction must not resume without a Notice to Proceed issued by the Energy Division.

6. Southern California Edison Company shall comply with the low-cost and no-cost measures in its Field Management Plan provided in Appendix F of its application.

7. Southern California Edison Company shall have in place, prior to commencing construction, all of the necessary permits, easements rights, or other legal authority, to the Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project sites.

8. Energy Division may approve requests by Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for minor project refinements that may be necessary due to final engineering of the Valley South 115 kilovolt Subtransmission Project so long as such minor project refinements are located within the geographic boundary of the study area of the Final Environmental Impact Report and do not, without mitigation: a) result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact based on the criteria used in the environmental document; b) conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy; or c) trigger an additional permit requirement. SCE shall seek any other project refinements by a petition to modify this decision.

9. Evidentiary hearings are not necessary.

10. Application 14-12-013 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.

APPENDIX A

Individuals Who Commented to Draft EIR

Angela D. Little	Cecilia Rubalcava
Clyde Bacon	Paul and Alba Chassey
Kirk Douglas	Harold Stovall
Adam Jaramillo	Jaime Corral
Barbara Stevens	Syvret Warner
Matt Gordon	Jennifer Roane
Madelyn Berson	Moses & Ruby Menchaca
Dan Long	Gary Tripodi
Kathy Heckathorn	Frank & Donna Williams
David Hidley	Heather & Jeffrey Gagliano
Sayegh Family	Tina Heims
David McFarland	Jacquelyn Can
Clyde & Catherine Bacon	Sheryl Saenz
Susan Jolly	Robert LaFond
Paul Reasbeck and Family	Melissa Mohr
Sssentago Family	Ednalyn Kerr
Flores Family	Jerred DeJang
George & Celia Mohr	Melinda Y Hosley
Chad Barley & Bridgit Mcginty	Nahid Behnawa
Melinda & Thomas Newburn	Mohammad Abbass

APPENDIX B

Introduction

This appendix lists, by environmental discipline, all mitigation measures identified in the California Public Utilities Commission's Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Valley South Subtransmission Project proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE).¹ In addition, SCE identified Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) in its Proponent's Environmental Assessment, which are part of the project description for the Valley South Subtransmission Project. These APMs are included at the end of this appendix.²

Mitigation Measures

Aesthetics

- AES-1 Screen Construction Activities from View.** Construction yards, staging areas, and material and equipment storage areas, including storage sites for excavated materials, shall be visually screened using temporary screening fencing. Fencing will be of an appropriate structure, material, and color for each specific location. This requirement shall not apply if Southern California Edison (SCE) can demonstrate that construction yards and facilities are located away from areas of high public visibility including public roads, residential areas, and public recreational facilities. For any site that SCE proposes to exempt from the screening requirement, SCE shall define the site on a detailed map demonstrating its visibility from nearby roads, residences, or recreational facilities and submit the map to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for review and approval at least 60 days prior to the start of construction at that site.
- AES-2 Minimize Vegetation Removal and Ground Disturbance.** Only the minimum amount of vegetation necessary for the construction of structures and facilities shall be removed during construction. In particular, vegetation within the right-of-way and ground clearing at the foot of each pole and between poles shall be limited to the clearing necessary to comply with all regulatory requirements.
- AES-3 Reduce Color Contrast of Graveled Surfaces.** If construction unavoidably introduces graveled surfaces that cause substantial visual contrast visible from sensitive public viewing locations, the graveled surfaces shall be treated with an appropriate color or material (e.g., Natina Rock,

¹ The Final EIR did not identify the need for mitigation measures for Climate Change.

² The Final EIR also includes MM AES-7 (Relocate Subtransmission Line Along Scott Road) and MM CR-13 (Viewshed Documentation Study) that only apply to Alternative 1 (Subtransmission Line Route Alternative Along Menifee Road). If this alternative is selected as the preferred route for the Valley South Subtransmission Project then these additional mitigation measures will need to be added to this appendix.

Eonite, or Permeon, or similar). The colorant material shall be approved by the CPUC, and the intent shall be to reduce the visual contrast created by placing the lighter-colored rock adjacent to darker soil and vegetated surroundings. SCE shall consult with the CPUC and/or their authorized representative(s) on a site-by-site basis and obtain written approval prior to the use of any colorants.

AES-4 Prohibit Construction Marking of Natural Features. SCE shall not apply paint or permanent discoloring agents to rocks or vegetation to indicate survey or construction activity limits or for any other purpose.

AES-5 Minimize Night Lighting at Construction Sites and Project Facilities. SCE shall avoid night lighting where possible and minimize its use under all circumstances. To ensure this, SCE shall prepare a Night Lighting Management Plan for both construction and O&M. The Plan shall specify the following:

- Use of portable truck-mounted lighting.
- Emphasis on use of low-pressure sodium (LPS) or amber light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.
- White lighting (metal halide) would: a) only be used when necessitated by specific work tasks; b) would not be used for dusk-to-dawn lighting; and c) would be less than 3,500 Kelvin color temperature.
- All lamp locations, orientations, and intensities including security, roadway, and task lighting.
- Each light fixture and each light shield.
- Total estimated outdoor lighting footprint expressed as lumens or lumens per acre.
- Detailed list of anticipated circumstances and activities that would require night lighting including the expected frequency of the activity, the duration of the activity, and the expected amount of lighting that would be necessary for that activity.
- Light fixtures that could be visible from beyond Project facility boundaries shall have cutoff angles sufficient to prevent lamps and reflectors from being visible beyond the Project facility boundary, including security lighting.
- Motion sensors and other controls to be used, especially for security lighting such that lights operate only when the area is occupied.
- Surface treatment specification that will be employed to minimize glare and sky glow.
- The Night Lighting Management Plan shall also consider the following factors:
 - All temporary construction lighting and permanent exterior lighting shall include: (a) lamps and reflectors that are not visible from beyond the construction site or facility including any off-site security buffer areas; (b) lighting that shall not cause excessive reflected glare; (c) direct lighting that shall not illuminate the nighttime sky, except for required Federal Aviation Administration aircraft safety lighting (which, if required, shall be an on-demand, audio-visual warning system that is triggered by radar technology); (d) minimization of illumination of the Project and its immediate vicinity; (e) avoidance of sky glow caused by Project lighting will be avoided; and (f) compliance with local policies and ordinances to be outlined in the Night Lighting Management Plan. All permanent light sources shall be below 3,500 Kelvin color temperature (warm white) and shall be full cutoff fixtures.

- Always-on security lighting is to be limited to one low-wattage, fully shielded, full cutoff light fixture at the main entrance to facilities. All other security lighting is to be motion activated only through the use of passive infrared sensors and controlled as specific zones such that only targeted areas are illuminated. No other lighting is to be utilized on a nightly basis when a facility is not occupied.
- Lighted nighttime maintenance is to be minimized or avoided as a routine practice and should occur only during emergencies.

The draft Night Lighting Management Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC at least 60 days prior to the start of construction. Following the CPUC's review of the draft plan, and at least 15 days prior to the start of construction, SCE shall submit to the CPUC for review and approval, a final Night Lighting Management Plan. Construction activities shall not start until CPUC's approvals of the plan have been received.

AES-6 Treat Structure Surfaces. SCE shall treat the surfaces of all structures visible to the public such that: a) their colors minimize visual contrast by blending with the characteristic landscape colors; and b) their colors and finishes do not create excessive glare. SCE should consult with applicable city and **county** agencies regarding the colors and finishes used on project structures. The subtransmission facilities and conductors shall be non-specular and non-reflective, and the insulators shall be non-reflective and non-refractive (SCE has stated in their project description that they will use non-specular 954 SAC conductors). SCE shall use appropriate colors that blend effectively with the surrounding land-scape. SCE has stated in their project description that the TSPs will have a "dulled galvanized finish."

SCE shall provide to the CPUC for review, a Surface Treatment Plan describing the materials and dulling treatment proposed along with samples of treated material. The plan shall also describe the application of any post-manufacture colors and textures to new facility structures, and explain how the overall Project design will reduce glare and minimize visual intrusion and contrast by blending the facilities with the landscape. The plan shall be submitted to CPUC at least 60 days prior to ordering the first structures that are to be color-treated during manufacture or prior to construction of any of the facility components, whichever comes first. If the CPUC notifies SCE that revisions to the plan are needed before the plan can be approved, within 30 days of receiving that notification, SCE shall prepare and submit for review and approval a revised plan. The Surface Treatment Plan shall include the following components and specifications.

- Specification, and 11" x 17" color simulations at life-size scale, of the treatment proposed for use on structures, including structures treated during manufacture.
- A list of each major structure and/or pole specifying the color(s) and finish(es) proposed for each (colors must be identified by name and by vendor brand or a universal designation).
- Two sets of brochures and/or color chips for each proposed color.
- A detailed schedule for completion of the treatment.
- A procedure to ensure proper treatment maintenance for the life of the Project.
- Until SCE receives notification of approval of the Surface Treatment Plan by the CPUC, SCE shall not specify to the vendors the treatment of structures for manufacture and shall not perform the final treatment on structures treated on site. Additionally, construction activities

shall not start until approval of the plan from the CPUC has been received. Within 14 days following the completion of treatment on any facility component, SCE shall notify the CPUC that the component (e.g., structure) is ready for inspection.

Agricultural Resources

AG-1 Coordinate with Agricultural Landowners. SCE shall coordinate with potentially affected property owners of Farmland (Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, and Unique Farmland) and Agricultural Preserve lands to reduce disruption to agricultural operations during construction of the Project. This coordination shall include:

- Scheduling construction activities at a location and time when conflict with agricultural operations will be minimized, and avoiding construction during peak planting, growing, and harvest seasons, if feasible, based on outage limitations; and SCE shall use best efforts to schedule construction activities to avoid peak planting, growing and harvest season as feasible and in coordination with the property owner.
- Ensuring that any damaged or disturbed Farmland is restored to a condition that closely approximates conditions that existed prior to construction-related disturbance, and/or as agreed upon between SCE and the property owner and also in accordance with the existing easement language, to the extent practicable. This could include activities such as soil preparation, regrading, and reseeded.
- SCE shall document its coordination efforts with affected agricultural landowners regarding the continued use of Farmland and Agricultural Preserves, and shall submit this documentation to the CPUC at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction activities on the affected agricultural parcels.

Air Quality

AQ-1 Fugitive Dust Control. A fugitive dust control plan shall be prepared, submitted, and approved by the CPUC prior to initiation of Project construction. The Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall include the following measures or requirements, or others as required or allowed by South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403, where determined to be more appropriate:

- Vehicle speeds on private unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour, with the exception of the marshalling yards on which vehicle speeds shall be limited to 10 miles per hour.
- Vehicle speeds on public unpaved roads shall be limited to 25 miles per hour.
- Marshalling yards shall be paved or graveled.
- Track-out onto paved public roads shall be controlled using wheel washing system, wheel shaker/wheel spreading device, a washed gravel pad that is 30 feet long and 50 feet long, or equivalent means.
- Unpaved roads (including the portions of unpaved public roads in use by Project vehicles) when being used by Project vehicles, active construction areas, storage piles, and other disturbed areas shall be watered or chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants applied at least three times per day or as necessary to limit visible dust emissions.

- Vegetation shall be cut but maintained in areas that do not require removal of vegetation and to control dust from disturbed areas.
- When wind speeds exceed 25 miles per hour the sources of visible dust emissions shall temporarily halt operations or additional control measures shall be applied to eliminate the visible dust emissions, and in the case of dust emission from inactive disturbed areas during high winds additional watering or dust suppressants shall be applied to reduce the visible dust emissions.
- Bulk material storage piles shall be covered, or stored in areas with wind barriers and water/dust suppressants applied to reduce dust emissions.
- Bulk materials shall be transported in trucks with covers, or using a minimum freeboard of 12 inches.
- Other mitigation measures as necessary to comply with the requirements of SCAQMD Rule 403 shall be implemented during Project construction.

The ongoing compliance of these control measures shall be ensured by a qualified Construction Mitigation Manager (CMM). The CMM shall have the authority to require the implementation of additional dust control measures if conditions warrant.

AQ-2 Off-Road Equipment Emissions Control. Off-road equipment with engines larger than 50 horsepower shall have engines that meet or exceed US Environmental Protection Agency/California Air Resources Board (CARB) Tier 3 Emissions Standards. Exceptions may be allowed only on a case by case basis for three specific situations: (1) an off-road equipment item that is a specialty, or unique, piece of equipment that cannot be found with a Tier 3 or better engine after a due diligence search; and/or (2) an off-road equipment item that would be used for a total of no more than 5 days; and/or (3) the off-road equipment is registered under CARB's Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program. Additionally, all off-road equipment engines shall be maintained in good operating condition and in tune per manufacturers' specification, and equipment idling shall be limited to no more than five minutes unless needed for proper operation.

Biological Resources

BIO-1 Implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to any Project activities on the site (i.e., surveying, mobilization, fencing, grading, or construction), a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) shall be prepared and implemented by a qualified biologist(s). The WEAP shall be approved by the CPUC and finalized prior to issuance of construction permits, and implemented throughout the duration of the construction activities. The WEAP shall be put into action prior to the beginning of any site related activities, including but not limited to those activities listed above, and implemented throughout the duration of VSSP construction.

- The WEAP, shall include, at a minimum, the following items:
 - Training materials and briefings shall include but not be limited to: a discussion of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the consequences of non-compliance with these acts; identification and values of plant and wildlife species and significant natural plant community habitats; hazardous substance spill prevention and containment measures; a

contact person and phone number in the event of the discovery of dead or injured wildlife; and a review of mitigation requirements.

- A discussion of measures to be implemented for avoidance of the sensitive resources discussed above and the identification of an onsite contact in the event of the discovery of sensitive species on the site; this will include a discussion on microtrash.
- Protocols to be followed when road kill is encountered in the work area or along access roads and the identification of an onsite representative to whom the road kill will be reported. Road kill shall be reported to the appropriate local animal control agency within 24 hours.
- Maps showing the known locations of special-status wildlife, populations of rare plants and sensitive vegetation communities, seasonal depressions and known waterbodies, wetland habitat, exclusion areas, and other construction limitations (e.g. limited operating periods, etc.). These features shall be included on the VSSP plans and specifications drawings.
- Literature and photographs or illustrations of potentially occurring special-status plant and/or wildlife species will be provided to all VSSP contractors and heavy equipment operators.
- Evidence that all onsite construction and security personnel have completed the WEAP prior to the start of site mobilization. A special hardhat sticker or wallet size card shall be issued to all personnel completing the training, which shall be carried with the trained personnel at all times while on the VSSP site. All new personnel shall receive this training and may work in the field for no more than 5 days without participating in the WEAP. A log of all personnel who have completed the WEAP training shall be kept on site.
- A weather protected bulletin board or binder shall be centrally placed or kept on site (e.g., in the break room, construction foreman's vehicle, construction trailer, etc.) for the duration of the construction. This board or binder will provide key provisions of regulations or VSSP conditions as they relate to biological resources or as they apply to grading activities. This information shall be easily accessible for personnel in all active work areas.
- Develop a standalone version of the WEAP, that covers all previously discussed items above, and that can be used as a reference for maintenance personnel during VSSP operations.
- An environmental monitor, approved by the CPUC, will be retained during construction of the VSSP and will be directly involved with the implementation and enforcement of the WEAP. A log of all personnel who have completed the WEAP training shall be kept on site.

BIO-2 Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all ground disturbance and construction related activities to avoid or minimize VSSP impacts on biological resources. These BMPs will include but are not limited to the following:

- Compliance with BMPs will be documented and provided in a written report on an annual basis. The report shall include a summary of the construction activities completed, a review of the sensitive plants and wildlife encountered, a list of compliance actions and any remedial actions taken to correct the actions, and the status of ongoing mitigation efforts.
- Prior to ground disturbance of any kind the VSSP work areas shall be clearly delineated by stakes, flags, or other clearly identifiable system.

- Vehicles and equipment shall be parked on pavement, existing roads, previously disturbed areas, and areas permanently or temporarily disturbed as part of the VSSP to the extent practicable.
- Speed limit signs, imposing a speed limit of 15 miles per hour, will be installed where construction vehicles would travel on unpaved public and private roads (without existing posted limits) throughout the VSSP site prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction. To minimize disturbance of areas outside of the construction zone, all VSSP related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas. These areas will be included in preconstruction surveys and to the extent possible, should be established in locations disturbed by previous activities to prevent further impacts. Off-road traffic outside of designated VSSP areas will be prohibited.
- No vehicles or equipment shall be refueled within 100 feet of an ephemeral drainage or wetland unless a bermed and lined refueling area is constructed. Spill kits shall be maintained on site in sufficient quantity to accommodate at least three complete vehicle tank failures of 50 gallons each. Any vehicles driven and/or operated within or adjacent to drainages or wetlands shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials.
- All general trash, food-related trash items (e.g., wrappers, cans, bottles, food scraps, cigarettes, etc.) and other human-generated debris will be stored in animal proof containers and/or removed from the site each day. No deliberate feeding of wildlife will be allowed.
- All pipes and culverts with a diameter of greater than 4 inches shall be capped or taped closed. Prior to capping or taping the pipe/culvert shall be inspected for the presence of wildlife. If encountered the wildlife shall be allowed to escape unimpeded.
- No firearms will be allowed on the VSSP site, unless otherwise approved for security personnel.
- To prevent harassment or mortality of listed, special-status species and common wildlife, or destruction of their habitats no domesticated animals of any kind shall be permitted in any VSSP area.
- Use of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, or biocides will be in compliance with all local, State and federal regulations. All uses of such compounds shall observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and federal legislation, as well as additional VSSP related restrictions deemed necessary by the USFWS and CDFW. Use of rodenticides is restricted in areas that may support special status wildlife.
- Any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a special-status animal, or finds one either dead, injured, or entrapped, will immediately report the incident to the onsite representative identified in the WEAP. The representative will contact the USFWS, CDFW, and CPUC by telephone by the end of the day, or at the beginning of the next working day if the agency office is closed. In addition, formal notification shall be provided in writing within three working days of the incident or finding. Notification will include the date, time, location and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead or injured will be turned over immediately to CDFW for care, analysis, or disposition.
- During the site disturbance and/or construction phase, grading and construction activities before dawn and after dusk, is prohibited.

- Avoidance and minimization of vegetation removal within active construction areas, including the flagging of sensitive vegetation communities or plants with appropriate colored materials that indicate a sensitive biological resource. Prior to the start of construction, a color of flagging shall be chosen, that does not conflict with those used during construction, to represent sensitive biological resources.
- Avoidance and minimization of construction activities resulting in impacts to streambeds and banks of any ephemeral drainage.
- All excavation, steep-walled holes or trenches in excess of 6 inches in depth shall will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth dirt fill or wooden planks. Trenches will also be inspected for entrapped wildlife each morning prior to onset of construction activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for entrapped wildlife. Any wildlife discovered will be allowed to escape before construction activities are allowed to resume, or removed from the trench or hole by a qualified biologist holding the appropriate permits (if required).
- The VSSP shall be designed consistent with the most current Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's practices.

BIO-3 Compensation for Permanent Impacts to Sensitive Vegetation Communities. To compensate for impacts to sensitive vegetation communities from the construction of the VSSP, SCE shall restore all temporary impact areas; restoration shall be completed as described in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan outlined below under Mitigation Measure BIO-4. Prior to disturbance, SCE shall have a qualified biologist, approved by the CPUC, verify the community type and acreage of vegetation that would be subject to VSSP disturbance. Impacts to all native trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 3 inches would be documented by identifying the species, number, location, and DBH. All protection and replacement measures shall be consistent with applicable local jurisdiction requirements.

The creation or restoration of habitat shall be required for all permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities. The replacement ratios for permanent impacts to riparian vegetation are 3:1; a ratio of 1:1 shall be applied to all other sensitive communities (including non-native annual grassland). All created or restored habitats shall be monitored per the requirements in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan (see Mitigation Measure BIO-4). If SCE becomes a PSE with the MSHCP, compensation for impacts to sensitive vegetation communities may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

Compensation Land Selection Criteria. Criteria for the acquisition, initial protection and habitat improvement, and long-term maintenance and management of compensation lands would include all of the following:

- Compensation lands will provide habitat value that is equal to or better than the quality and function of the habitat impacted by the VSSP, taking into consideration soils, vegetation,

topography, human-related disturbance, wildlife movement opportunity, proximity to other protected lands, management feasibility, and other habitat values.

- To the extent that proposed compensation habitat may have been degraded by previous uses or activities, the site quality and nature of degradation must support the expectation that it will regenerate naturally when disturbances are removed;
- Be near larger blocks of lands that are either already protected or planned for protection, or which could feasibly be protected long-term by a public resource agency or a non-governmental organization dedicated to habitat preservation;
- Not have a history of intensive recreational use or other disturbance that might cause future erosion or other habitat damage, and make habitat recovery and restoration infeasible;
- Not be characterized by high densities of invasive species, either on or immediately adjacent to the parcels under consideration, that might jeopardize habitat recovery and restoration;
- Not contain hazardous wastes that cannot be removed to the extent that the site could not provide suitable habitat;
- Must provide wildlife movement value equal to that on the project site, based on topography, presence and nature of movement barriers or crossing points, location in relationship to other habitat areas, management feasibility, and other habitat values; and

SCE shall either donate open space/conservation easements or provide funds for the acquisition of such easements to a “qualified easement holder” (defined below). The CDFW is a qualified easement holder. To qualify as a “qualified easement holder” a private land trust must have:

- Substantial experience managing open space/conservation easements that are created to meet mitigation requirements for impacts to special-status species;
- Adopted the Land Trust Alliance’s Standards and Practices; and
- A stewardship endowment fund to pay for its perpetual stewardship obligations.

The CPUC will determine whether a proposed easement holder meets these requirements.

SCE shall also be responsible for providing to the qualified easement holder fees sufficient to cover: (1) Administrative costs incurred in the creation of the easement (appraisal, documenting baseline conditions, etc.) and (2) Funds in the form of a non-wasting endowment to cover the cost of monitoring and enforcing the terms of the easement in perpetuity.

- BIO-4 Develop a Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan.** The intent of this mitigation measure is to require SCE to restore temporarily disturbed areas to pre-construction conditions or better and provide for habitat creation/restoration resulting from permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities (refer to Mitigation Measure BIO-3 above). Prior to the site mobilization activities and removal of any vegetation, SCE shall retain a qualified biologist (approved by the CPUC) knowledgeable in the area(s) of restoration as they pertain to the on-site vegetation communities, to prepare a Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan (HRMP); the plan must be approved by the CPUC prior to the start of site mobilization activities. This biologist will also be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan as well as the progress on achieving the established success criteria.

The purpose of the HRMP will be to explicitly identify the process by which all temporarily disturbed areas shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. The plan will also address restoration and revegetation related to permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities from construction. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

- Figures depicting areas proposed for temporary disturbance – The HRMP shall include detailed figures indicating the locations and vegetation types of areas proposed for temporary disturbance. These figures shall be updated, as necessary, to reflect current site conditions should they change.
- Proposed species for restoration/revegetation – The species palette proposed for restoration/revegetation shall include an appropriate native seed mix representative of the current species composition in the restoration/revegetation areas, and shall not contain non-native invasive species. Seed must be from genetic stock appropriate to Western Riverside County.
- Planting methodology – A description of the preferred methods proposed for seeding shall be provided (e.g., hydroseeding, drill seeding, broadcast seeding, etc.). Additionally, a discussion on timing of seeding, type of irrigation system proposed (as needed), type and duration of irrigation, and erosion controls proposed for revegetation activities shall be included.
- Schedule – A proposed schedule for all restoration and/or habitat creation shall be provided. When applicable restoration or habitat creation activities shall occur once construction activities are complete within a specific area; the Project area should be broken up into sections based on the required construction activities. Once construction is complete within a defined section, restoration and/or habitat creations should commence. Restoration and/or creation of habitat should occur within an appropriate window for each specific community and species makeup (i.e., impacts to habitat during the summer months may not be initiated until the fall to promote native seed germination).
- Success criteria – A description of the success criteria for the restoration/revegetation efforts, and supplemental activities to be conducted to ensure success criteria are met.
- Monitoring program – Areas subject to restoration/revegetation shall be monitored to assess progress and to make recommendations for successful habitat establishment. Monitoring will be performed by a qualified biologist(s) knowledgeable in the area of habitat restoration specific to the on-site vegetation communities. Monitoring should include, at a minimum:
 - Qualitative Monitoring – Qualitative monitoring surveys will be performed monthly in all restored/revegetated areas for the first year following planting in any phase of the VSSP. Qualitative monitoring will be on a quarterly schedule thereafter, until final completion and approval by the appropriate regulatory agencies. Qualitative surveys will assess native plant species performance, including growth and survival, germination success, reproduction, and plant fitness and health as well as pest or invasive plant problems.
 - Monitoring at this stage will indicate need for remediation or maintenance work well in advance of final success/failure determination. The monitoring reports will describe site progress toward achieving success criteria, conditions, and all observations pertinent to eventual success, and make recommendations as appropriate regarding remedial work, maintenance, etc.

- Quantitative Monitoring – Quantitative monitoring will occur annually for years one to five or until the success criteria are met. Within each revegetation area, the biologist will collect data in a series of 1 m² quadrats to estimate cover and density of each plant species within the restored/revegetated areas. In year 2 or 3, depending on the growth within the restoration area, the qualitative monitoring methods may deviate from the quadrat methodology to toepoint transects based on methods described by Evans and Love (1957). Data will be used to measure native species growth performance, to estimate native and non-native species coverage, seed mix germination, native species recruitment and reproduction, and species diversity. Based on these results, the biologist will make recommendations for maintenance or remedial work on the site and for adjustments to the approved seed mix.
- Reporting – Reporting will include progress reports summarizing site status and recommended remedial measures that will be submitted by the biologist on a quarterly basis, with the exception of the site visits immediately preceding the development of each annual status report (see below). Each progress report will list estimated species coverage and diversity, species health and overall vigor, the establishment of volunteer native species, topographical/soils conditions, problem weed species, the use of the site by wildlife, significant drought stress, and any recommended remedial measures deemed necessary to ensure compliance with specified success criteria.

One annual site status report that summarizes site conditions will be forwarded by the biologist to the appropriate regulatory agencies (i.e., USACE, CDFW, and CPUC) at the end of each year following implementation of this plan until the established success criteria have been met. Each annual report will list plant species coverage and diversity measured during yearly quantitative surveys, compliance/non-compliance with required success criteria, species health and overall vigor, the establishment of volunteer native species, hydrological and topographical conditions, use of the site by wildlife, and the presence of invasive weed species. In the event of substantial non-compliance with the required success criteria, the reports will include remedial measures deemed necessary to ensure future compliance with specified performance criteria. Each annual report will include, at the minimum:

- The name, title, and company of all persons involved in restoration monitoring and report preparation;
- Maps or aerials showing restoration areas, transect locations, and photo documentation locations;
- An explanation of the methods used to perform the work, including the number of acres treated for removal of non-native plants; and
- An assessment of the treatment success.

BIO-5 Implement Biological Construction Monitoring. No more than 30 days prior to the commencement of ground disturbance or site mobilization activities, SCE shall retain a qualified biologist(s), approved by the CPUC, to monitor VSSP construction. The biologist will have demonstrated expertise with special-status plants, terrestrial mammals, reptiles, and birds. Monitoring will occur during initial ground disturbance for each phase of construction. Once initial ground disturbance is complete, monitoring will occur periodically during all construction activities. The qualified biologist(s) shall be present at all times during ground-disturbing

activities immediately adjacent to, or within, habitat that supports populations of listed or special-status species. Any special-status plants shall be flagged for avoidance. Any special-status terrestrial species found within a VSSP impact area shall be relocated by the authorized biologist to suitable habitat outside the impact area (permits and/or MOU's may be required for some species). Clearance surveys for special-status species shall be conducted by the authorized biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day during initial ground disturbance, and weekly thereafter. If nesting birds are found during the pre-construction surveys appropriate buffers shall be installed (as prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-6 [Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting and breeding birds and implement avoidance measures]).

If, during construction, the biological monitor observes a dead or injured special-status wildlife species on the construction site, a written report shall be sent to the CPUC, CDFW and/or USFWS (as appropriate) within five calendar days. The report will include the date, time of the finding or incident (if known), and location of the carcass or injured animal and circumstances of its death or injury (if known). Injured animals will be taken immediately to the nearest appropriate veterinary or wildlife rehabilitation facility. The biological monitor shall, immediately upon finding the remains or injured animal, coordinate with the onsite construction foreman to discuss the events that caused the mortality or injury, if known, and implement measures to prevent future incidents. Details of these measures shall be included with the report. Species remains shall be collected and frozen as soon as possible, and CDFW and USFWS, as appropriate, shall be contacted regarding ultimate disposal of the remains.

BIO-6 Conduct Pre-construction Surveys for Nesting and Breeding Birds and Implement Avoidance Measures. Prior to construction activities (i.e., mobilization, staging, grading, or construction) SCE shall retain a qualified avian biologist, approved by the CPUC, to conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds within the recognized breeding season in all areas within 500 feet of all VSSP components (i.e., staging areas, tower/pole sites, and access road locations). Surveys for raptors shall be conducted for all areas from January 1 to August 15. The required survey dates may be modified based on local conditions, as determined by the qualified avian biologist, with the approval of the CDFW and/or USFWS (where applicable). Measures intended to exclude nesting birds shall not be implemented without prior approval by the CDFW and/or USFWS.

If breeding birds with active nests are found prior to or during construction, the qualified avian biologist shall establish a minimum 300-foot buffer (500 foot for raptors) around the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer(s) until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails.

The prescribed buffers may be adjusted by the qualified avian biologist based on existing conditions around the nest, planned construction activities, tolerance of the species, and other pertinent factors. Buffer reductions for listed or special-status species may require coordination with the USFWS and/or CDFW. The qualified avian biologist shall conduct regular monitoring of the nest to determine success/failure and to ensure that VSSP activities are not conducted within the buffer(s) until the nesting cycle is complete or the nest fails. The avian biologist shall be responsible for documenting the results of the surveys, nest buffers implemented, and the results of ongoing monitoring and will provide a copy of the monitoring reports for impact areas to the appropriate resource agencies (i.e., USFWS and CDFW).

Surveys shall be conducted to include all impact areas on the VSSP site as well as all construction equipment. If birds are found to be nesting in facility structures or construction equipment and the nests contain eggs or young, buffers as described above shall be implemented.

If trees with nests are to be removed as part of VSSP construction activities, they will be done so outside of the nesting season to avoid additional impacts to nesting raptors. If removal during the nesting season cannot be avoided all trees will be inspected for active nests by the avian biologist. If nests are found within these trees and contain eggs or young no activities within a 300-foot buffer for nesting birds and/or a 500-foot buffer for raptors shall occur until the young have fledged the nest.

BIO-7 Prepare and Implement a Nesting Bird Management Plan. SCE shall prepare a Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP) in coordination with the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS. The NBMP shall describe methods to minimize potential project effects to nesting birds, and avoid any potential for unauthorized take. Project-related disturbance including construction and pre-construction activities shall not proceed until approval of the NBMP by CPUC in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. The NBMP shall be implemented over the entire VSSP site regardless of SCE's PSE status with the MSHCP.

The NBMP shall include: (1) definitions of standard nest buffers for each species or group of species, depending on characteristics and conservation status for each species; (2) a notification procedure for buffer distance reductions should they become necessary under special circumstances; (3) a rigorous monitoring protocol including qualifications of monitors, monitoring schedule, and field methods, to ensure that any project-related effects to nesting birds will be minimized; and (4) a protocol for documenting and reporting any inadvertent contact or effects to birds or nests.

The background section of the NBMP shall include the following:

- A summary of applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including definition of what constitutes a nest or active nest under state and federal law. This section shall describe SCE's proposed applicability of the NBMP in the event that state or federal regulations affecting nesting birds may be revised before project implementation.
- A list of bird species potentially nesting on or near the ROW or other work areas, indicating approximate nesting seasons, nesting habitat, typical nest locations (e.g., ground, vegetation, structures, etc.), tolerance to disturbance (if known) and any conservation status for each species. This section will also note any species that do not require avoidance measures (e.g., rock pigeons).
- A list of the types of project activities (construction, operation, and maintenance) that may occur during nesting season, with a short description of the noise, physical disturbance, and lighting resulting from each activity.
- A discussion of project activity scheduling, to avoid or minimize project impacts to nesting birds. Clearing of any vegetation, site preparation in open or barren areas, or other project-related activities that may adversely affect breeding birds shall be scheduled outside the nesting season, as feasible.

The NBMP shall describe the proposed field methods, survey timing, and qualifications of field biologists for pre-constructions surveys following the guidelines outlined in Mitigation Measure

BIO-6 (Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting and breeding birds and implement avoidance measures).

Nest Buffer Modification or Reduction. At times, SCE or its contractor may propose buffer distances different from those approved in the NBMP. Buffer adjustments for special-status species shall be reviewed and recommended by a qualified avian biologist, approved by CPUC in consultation with the CDFW and/or USFWS. For non-sensitive species, a qualified avian biologist will assess and implement buffer reductions in the field; a notification of the reduction(s) will be sent to the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS. The NBMP shall provide a procedure and timing requirements for notifying CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS of any planned adjustments to nest buffers. Separate and distinct procedures will be provided for special-status birds. The NBMP will list the information to be included in buffer reduction notifications in a standardized format.

- **Nest deterrents.** The NBMP shall describe any proposed measures or deterrents to prevent or reduce bird nesting activity on project equipment or facilities, such as buoys, visual or auditory hazing devices, bird repellents, securing of materials, and netting of materials, vehicles, and equipment. It shall also include timing for installation of nest deterrents and field confirmation to prevent effects to any active nest; guidance and training for the contractor to properly install, maintain, and use nest deterrents; and daily monitoring of nest deterrents to ensure proper installation and functioning and prevent injury or entrapment of birds or other animals. In the event that an active nest is located on project facilities, materials or equipment, SCE will either (1) avoid disturbance or use of the facilities, materials or equipment (e.g., by red-tag) until the nest is no longer active, or (2) coordinate with the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS to obtain authorization to remove the nest. The NBMP shall describe the proposed procedure for removal of nests, including wildlife rehabilitation options.
- **Communication.** The NBMP shall specify the responsibilities of construction monitors in regards to nests and nest issues, and specify a direct communication protocol to ensure that nest information and potential adverse impacts to nesting birds can be promptly communicated from nest monitors to construction monitors, so that any needed actions can be taken immediately.

The NBMP shall specify a procedure to be implemented following accidental disturbance of nests or project-related premature fledging, including wildlife rehabilitation options. It also shall describe any proposed measures, and applicable circumstances, to prevent take of precocial young of ground-nesting birds such as killdeer or quail. For example, chick fences may be used to prevent them from entering work areas and access roads. Finally, the NBMP will specify a procedure for removal of inactive nests, including verification that the nest is inactive and notification and approval process prior to removal.

- **Monitoring.** SCE shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation, conformance, and efficacy of the avoidance measures (above). The NBMP shall include specific monitoring measures to track any active bird nest within or adjacent to project work areas, bird nesting activity, project-related disturbance, and outcome of each nest. SCE shall monitor each nest until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or until the nest becomes inactive. In addition, monitoring shall include pre-construction surveys, daily sweeps of work areas and equipment, and any special monitoring requirements for particular activities (tree trimming, vegetation

removal, etc.) or particular species (noise monitoring, etc.). Nest monitoring shall continue throughout the breeding season during each year of the VSSP's construction activities.

- Reporting. Throughout the construction phase of the VSSP, nest locations, project activities in the vicinity of nests (including helicopter traces), and any adjustments to buffer areas shall be updated and available to CPUC monitors on a daily basis. All buffer reduction notifications and prompt notifications of nest-related non-compliance and corrective actions will be made via email to CPUC monitors. The draft NBMP shall include a proposed format for daily reporting (e.g., spreadsheet available online, tracking each nest). In addition, the NBMP shall specify the format and content of nest data to be provided in regular monitoring and compliance reports. At the end of each year's nest season, SCE will submit an annual NBMP report to the CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS. The annual report shall describe all preconstruction survey work, monitoring data (including names of monitors, activities and sites visited throughout the season), all reductions from standard buffer distances, buffer incursions and nest disturbance, project-related take of nesting birds, injury or entrapment of birds or other animals due to nest deterrents, and nest outcomes for all nests documented throughout the year.

Noise Monitoring Component. If an active breeding territory or nest for a special-status species is confirmed within 500 feet of any project activity site, SCE shall prepare and implement noise monitoring throughout construction and/or VSSP related activities taking place while listed birds occupy the nesting territory. Sound levels at the nest sites shall not exceed 8 dBA above ambient levels or 70 dBA (hourly average Leq), whichever is greater. Ambient levels will be established prior to initiation of construction and demolition, using the same methodology that will be used to take noise measurements during monitoring.

If the hourly average noise threshold is exceeded, or if the qualified biological monitor or qualified avian biologist determines that construction activities are disturbing nesting birds, additional noise reduction techniques shall be implemented to reduce project noise below the thresholds. Noise monitoring will be conducted to verify the reduction of noise levels below the thresholds. Noise reduction techniques can include, but are not limited to:

- Temporary noise barriers or sound walls
- Noise pads or dampers
- Replace and update noisy equipment
- Moveable task noise barriers
- Queue construction vehicles to distribute idling noise
- Locate vehicle access points and loading and shipping facilities away from the nest site
- Reduce the number of noisy activities that occur simultaneously
- Relocate noisy stationary equipment away from the nest sites.

BIO-8 Conduct Protocol Surveys for Least Bell's Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher; Avoid Occupied Habitat. Construction activities shall avoid suitable habitat for listed riparian birds and occur outside of the recognized breeding season to the extent feasible. If suitable habitat cannot be avoided, SCE shall consult with CDFW and USFWS and obtain the appropriate take authorizations or permits prior to site mobilization activities. SCE shall also implement any conservation measures contained within these permits. Mitigation Measure BIO-

3 (Compensation for Permanent Impacts to Sensitive Vegetation Communities) will compensate for impacts to Least Bell's Vireo (LBV), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL), and Willow Flycatcher (WFL) habitat by requiring the restoration, creation, or acquisition of lands containing riparian habitat; no further compensation is required. Take of LBV, SWFL, and WFL habitat and incidental take of individual LBV, SWFL, and/or WFL may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation of participation and compliance with the MSHCP (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion), including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be provided to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

If VSSP-related activities are scheduled to occur during the breeding season (February through September), SCE shall have a qualified and permitted avian biologist, approved by the CPUC, conduct protocol surveys in suitable habitat within 500 feet of disturbance areas. In known occupied habitat for listed riparian birds, SCE shall conduct focused protocol surveys of the VSSP and adjacent areas within 500 feet. The surveys shall be of adequate duration to verify potential nest sites if work is scheduled to occur during the breeding season.

Prior to construction, SCE shall submit documentation providing the results of the pre-construction focused surveys for LBV, SWFL, and WFL to the CPUC for review and approval in consultation with USFWS and CDFW. Protocol or focused nest location surveys, as appropriate, shall be conducted within one year prior to the start of construction and shall continue annually until completion of construction and restoration activities.

If an active breeding territory or nest is confirmed, the CPUC, USFWS, and CDFW shall be notified immediately. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge or the nest becomes inactive. SCE shall provide monitoring reports to the CPUC for review on a weekly basis. In coordination with the USFWS and CDFW, a minimum 300-foot disturbance-free ground buffer shall be established around the active nest and demarcated by fencing or flagging. No construction or vehicle traffic shall occur within nest buffers.

The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt construction activities and shall devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nest site and the construction activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge.

BIO-9 Conduct Protocol Surveys for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (CAGN) and Avoid Occupied Habitat. Construction activities shall avoid suitable habitat for CAGN and occur outside of the recognized breeding season to the extent feasible. If suitable habitat cannot be avoided, SCE shall consult with CDFW and USFWS and obtain the appropriate take authorizations or permits prior to site mobilization activities. SCE shall also implement any conservation measures contained within these permits. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Compensation for Permanent Impacts to Sensitive Vegetation Communities) will compensate for impacts to CAGN habitat by requiring the restoration, creation, or acquisition of lands containing coastal sage scrub habitat; no further compensation is required. Take of CAGN habitat and incidental take of individual CAGN may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation of participation and compliance (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be provided to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

SCE shall have a qualified and permitted avian biologist, approved by the CPUC, conduct protocol surveys for CAGN in all areas of coastal sage scrub habitat that may be affected by the Project. Survey areas will include a 500-foot buffer around proposed Project disturbance areas. Presence or absence of CAGN shall be determined prior to construction activities. In occupied habitat, SCE shall conduct additional focused nest location surveys to determine the locations of nests and territories; survey areas shall include a 500-foot buffer around VSSP disturbance areas.

Surveys shall be of adequate duration to verify potential nest sites if work is scheduled to occur during the breeding season. Prior to construction, SCE shall submit documentation providing the results of the pre-construction focused surveys for coastal California gnatcatchers to the CPUC for review and approval in consultation with USFWS and CDFW. Protocol or focused nest location surveys, as appropriate, shall be conducted within one year prior to the start of construction and shall continue annually until completion of construction and restoration activities.

If an active breeding territory or nest is confirmed, the CPUC, USFWS, and CDFW shall be notified immediately. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge or the nest becomes inactive. SCE shall provide monitoring reports to the CPUC for review on a weekly basis. In coordination with the USFWS and CDFW, a minimum 300-foot disturbance-free ground buffer shall be established around the active nest and demarcated by fencing or flagging. No construction or vehicle traffic shall occur within nest buffers.

The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt construction activities and shall devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nest site and the construction activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge.

BIO-10 Protocol Surveys for Quino Checkerspot and Avoidance of Suitable/Occupied Habitat.

Construction of the VSSP will avoid and minimize, to the extent possible, impacts to coastal sage scrub and grassland vegetation communities. These habitat types are known to support the larval host (i.e., dot-seed plantain) and adult food plants (i.e., dot-seed plantain, *Lasthenia* sp., and *Cryptantha* sp.) for the Quino checkerspot. If suitable habitat cannot be avoided, SCE shall consult with the USFWS and obtain the appropriate take authorizations or permits. SCE shall also implement any conservation measures contained within these permits. Take of Quino checkerspot habitat and incidental take of individual Quino checkerspot may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) of participation with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be provided to the CPUC prior to any take of this species.

SCE will conduct protocol surveys, following current USFWS guidelines, for the Quino checkerspot; any deviations from the most up to date guidelines must be approved by the USFWS. Surveys will be conducted by a qualified and permitted biologist approved by the CPUC. Protocols require an initial site habitat assessment, prior to the first survey, to determine the location of areas with suitable habitat. Subsequent surveys are not to be conducted concurrently with any other survey effort. Prior to construction, SCE shall submit documentation

providing the results of the pre-construction focused surveys for Quino checkerspot to the CPUC for review and approval in consultation with the USFWS.

BIO-11 Compensation for Impacts to Quino Checkerspot Suitable Habitat. SCE will provide compensation for impacts to suitable habitat containing the larval host plant for this species; the larval host plant is dot-seed plantain. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Compensation for Permanent Impacts to Sensitive Vegetation Communities) will compensate for impacts to habitat by requiring the restoration, creation, or acquisition of lands containing riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub habitat, annual grassland, or other sensitive habitats. However, this measure does not require compensation for common and/or non-native plant communities other than annual grassland. Dot-seed plantain often occurs in native and non-native communities in which compensation for impacts is not required. Therefore, the creation or restoration of habitat shall be required at a 1:1 ratio for all permanent impacts to habitats within the VSSP site, found to support populations of the host plant, that do not require compensation under Mitigation Measure BIO-3. The compensation land criteria presented in Mitigation Measure BIO-3 will also apply to lands obtained for impacts to Quino checkerspot.

If SCE becomes a PSE with the MSHCP, compensation for impacts to Quino checkerspot may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

BIO-12 Complete Protocol-level Surveys for Vernal Pool and Riverside Fairy Shrimp. SCE will conduct protocol surveys for the federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp and the federally endangered Riverside fairy shrimp each year of construction, in areas subject to Project disturbance, that have not been surveyed within the last three years. Surveys can only be suspended upon written authorization from the USFWS/CDFG and the CPUC. SCE shall retain a CPUC approved biologist holding the required 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit from the USFWS to conduct surveys within all potential fairy shrimp habitat found within the project footprint including, but not limited to, seasonal/ephemeral wetlands, swales, large road ruts and known vernal pool habitat. Surveys shall follow the guidelines set forth by the USFWS in the Interim Survey Guidelines to Permittees for Recovery Permits under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for Listed Vernal Pool Branchiopods. Within 90 days of the completion of surveys, a report shall be submitted to the CPUC detailing the results of each survey event.

BIO-13 Avoid Seasonal Depressions and Known Waterbodies. All known seasonal/ephemeral depressions, vernal pools and known water bodies (refer to EIR Figures C.5-2a to C.5-2g) that have been verified or have the potential to be occupied by listed fairy shrimp shall be shown on all applicable construction plans. SCE shall avoid all seasonal/ephemeral depressions, vernal pools and known waterbodies that occur within the project site to minimize impacts to listed fairy shrimp. A 100-foot buffer shall be placed around all seasonal/ephemeral depressions, vernal pools and known waterbodies that have the potential to, but do not presently support listed fairy shrimp, to prevent equipment from entering these areas. If, after conducting surveys according to the methods described above under Mitigation Measure BIO-12, areas identified as potential habitat have been verified to not contain listed fairy shrimp, the 100-foot buffer can be removed. All vernal pools, seasonal depressions and known waterbodies containing

documented populations of listed fairy shrimp shall require a 250-foot buffer. These buffers shall be shown on all applicable construction plans (with a highly visible method easily identifiable by construction workers in the field). On-site delineation of this buffer shall be in place prior to the commencement of construction activities. The method used for delineation shall be kept in good working order for the duration of the construction period.

If avoidance of known populations of listed fairy shrimp is not possible, consultation with the USFWS regarding the potential impacts to the species will be necessary.

BIO-14 Compensate for Impacts to Vernal Pool or Riverside Fairy Shrimp Habitat. If VSSP impacts will result in impacts to habitat for, or result in the loss of, vernal pool or Riverside fairy shrimp SCE, as indicated above, will be required to consult with the USFWS. If suitable or occupied habitat cannot be avoided, SCE shall consult the USFWS and obtain the appropriate take authorizations or permits prior to site mobilization activities. SCE shall also implement any conservation measures contained within these permits. To compensate for impacts, the USFWS will require both a preservation and creation component for compensation as follows:

Preservation component – For every acre of habitat directly or indirectly affected, at least two vernal pool credits will be dedicated within a USFWS approved ecosystem preservation bank, or, based on USFWS evaluation of site-specific conservation values, three acres of vernal pool habitat may be preserved on the project site or on another non-bank site as approved by the USFWS.

Creation component – For every acre of habitat directly affected, at least one vernal pool creation credit will be dedicated within a USFWS approved habitat mitigation bank, or, based on USFWS evaluation of site-specific conservation values, two acres of vernal pool habitat will be created and monitored on the project site or on another non-bank site as approved by the USFWS.

Take of suitable or occupied habitat may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be provided to the CPUC prior site mobilization activities.

BIO-15 Complete Focused Pre-construction Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Burrow/Precinct Surveys and Implement Avoidance Measures. No more than 30 days prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities, SCE shall retain a qualified and permitted biologist, approved by the CPUC, to conduct pre-construction surveys for SKR. If active SKR burrows/precincts are present, they shall be flagged, with ground-disturbing activities to be setback a minimum of 100 feet from each active burrow/precinct. The setback shall be delineated in the field in such a method that it is easily visible by all construction personnel and no work will be allowed within the setback areas (for the duration of the VSSP) until authorized by the USFWS, CDFW, and the CPUC. The biological monitor shall periodically field check the mapped burrows/precincts to buffer delineation and that flagging are all in good working order. All active burrows/precincts shall be mapped and incorporated into a GIS based figure for use by the on-site monitors and construction crews. Figures shall include each mapped burrow/precinct and buffer utilizing a highly visible method easily identifiable by construction workers and monitors in the field. Prior to the completion of the VSSP a final monitoring report shall be submitted to the CPUC, CDFW and USFWS.

Avoidance of burrows/precincts is mandatory. If SCE determines that construction activities will require work within the setback areas noted above, they must provide documentation of a take permit and biological opinion from the CDFW and USFWS respectively. Take of individual SKR may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP and/or is an approved participant in the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) HCP for SKR. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) with either the MSHCP or SKR HCP shall be provided to the CPUC prior to any take of this species.

BIO-16 Compensate for Permanent Impacts to Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. Based on the results of the SKR surveys (refer to Mitigation Measure BIO-15) SCE may be required to compensate for impacts to occupied habitat or individual species. If SCE determines that construction activities must occur within occupied habitat, and they have obtained the required take permit and biological opinion (as noted above under Mitigation Measure BIO-15), they shall be required to compensate for impacts to SKR. To compensate for permanent impacts to this species SCE shall acquire parcels of land at the ratios described below.

Parcels shall be acquired at a 4:1 ratio for impacts to SKR that support existing populations of SKR or that provide suitable habitat for SKR. If the acquired lands for other species, such as burrowing owl or coastal California gnatcatcher, can be managed to support SKR the proposed mitigation lands could be aggregated so the purchase of mitigation lands for one species could cover a portion of the mitigation requirements for the remaining species. Mitigation lands must not already be public land and shall be located within the Western Riverside County.

A conservation easement would need to be recorded on all property associated with the mitigation lands as to protect the existing biological resources in perpetuity. A conservation easement could be held by CDFW or an approved land management entity and shall be recorded immediately upon the dedication or acquisition of the land. Preserved or acquired mitigation lands will be monitored and maintained per the requirements set forth in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan prepared for the project and discussed below under Mitigation Measure BIO-17. The location of all lands proposed for mitigation land must be submitted to the CPUC, for review and approval, prior to start of construction mobilization activities.

If SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP and/or is an approved participant in the RCHCA HCP for SKR compensation for impacts to SKR may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP and Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency HCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with these plans, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

BIO-17 Preparation of a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. To ensure the success of on-site preserved land and acquired mitigation lands, required for compensation of permanent impacts to vegetative communities and listed or Special-Status plants and wildlife, SCE shall retain a CPUC approved/qualified biologist to prepare a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). The HMMP will be submitted to the CPUC for approval prior to the start of construction mobilization activities. Prior to the end of VSSP construction final impact acreages must be presented to the CPUC and acquisition of off-site lands must be verified. The HMMP will include, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. Summary of anticipated habitat impacts and the proposed mitigation.

- b. Detailed description of the location and boundaries of undisturbed project areas (i.e., areas supporting dot-seed plantain) proposed for preservation, off-site mitigation lands and a description of existing site-wide conditions.
- c. Discussion of measures to be undertaken to enhance (e.g., through focused management) the on-site preserved habitat and off-site mitigation lands for listed and special-status species.
- d. Dedication of adequate funds consistent with the PAR analysis required for CDFW and USFWS permit requirements.
- e. Description of management and maintenance measures (e.g., managed grazing, fencing maintenance, etc.).
- f. Discussion of habitat and species monitoring measures for on-site preservation areas and off-site mitigation lands, including specific, objectives, performance criteria, monitoring methods, data analysis, reporting requirements, monitoring schedule, etc.
- g. Development of a monitoring strategy, which shall serve to document the persistence of SKR (Quino checkerspot, burrowing owl, and other species if applicable) populations within the VSSP site. This monitoring will be conducted for a minimum of 5 years after the completion of construction activities. The strategy should include, at the minimum, the following:
 - 1. Documentation of pre-project population levels for the species noted above, based on results of focused pre-construction surveys and previously supplied applicant data.
 - 2. On-going monitoring of species populations upon completion of construction activities, while the project is in operation, for a minimum of three years.
 - 3. Monitoring of reference populations for each of these species in areas that contain undisturbed habitat, such as the Carrizo Plain National Monument.
 - 4. An analysis of the comparison of percent changes in population levels at the project and reference sites to be used in the determination of additional compensatory mitigation.
- h. SCE shall prepare a contingency plan for mitigation elements that do not meet performance or final success criteria within 5 years. This plan will include specific triggers for remediation if performance criteria are not being met and a description of the process by which remediation of problems with the mitigation site (e.g., presence of noxious weeds) will occur.

SCE (in consultation with the land trust/agency that holds conservation easements on mitigation lands) is responsible for the monitoring of the mitigation lands during VSSP construction and for 5 years after the completion of construction. Thereafter, mitigation lands shall be monitored at least once per year by the land trust/agency that holds the conservation easements. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the CPUC annually.

If SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP, and/or is an approved participant in the RCHCA HCP for SKR compensation, impacts to SKR may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP and RCHCA HCP requirements thus precluding the need for any on-site mitigation or off-site acquisition of lands. Documentation of

participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with these plans, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

BIO-18 Conduct Pre-construction Surveys for State and Federally Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, Candidate, or other Special-Status Plants and Implementation of Avoidance Measures. Prior to initial ground disturbance and for undisturbed areas in subsequent construction years, SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for State and federally listed Threatened and Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, Candidate, and other special-status plants in all areas subject to ground-disturbing activity, including, but not limited to, tower/pole locations, construction areas, assembly yards, and areas subject to grading for new access roads. The surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate blooming period(s) by a qualified plant ecologist/biologist, approved by the CPUC, according to protocols established by the USFWS, CDFW, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS). All listed plant species found shall be marked and avoided. Any populations of special-status plants found during surveys will be fully described, mapped, and a CNPS Field Survey Form or written equivalent shall be prepared.

These surveys must be accomplished during a year in which rainfall totals are at least 80% of average and in which the temporal distribution of rainfall is not highly abnormal (e.g., with the vast majority of rainfall occurring very early or late in the season) to be reasonably certain of the presence/absence of rare plant species, unless surveys of reference populations document that precipitation conditions would not have adversely affected the ability to detect the species. This condition may be waived with the approval of the CPUC after consultation with the CDFW and USFWS. If a listed plant species cannot be avoided, consultation with USFWS and CDFW will occur.

Prior to excavation and grading activities or vegetation removal, any populations of listed or special-status plant species identified during the surveys within the VSSP limits and beyond, shall be protected and a buffer zone placed around each population. The buffer zone shall be established around these areas and shall be of sufficient size to eliminate potential disturbance to the plants from human activity and any other potential sources of disturbance including human trampling, erosion, and dust. The size of the buffer depends upon the proposed use of the immediately adjacent lands, and includes consideration of the plant's ecological requirements (e.g., sunlight, moisture, shade tolerance, physical and chemical characteristics of soils) that are identified by the qualified plant ecologist and/or botanist. The buffer for herbaceous and shrub species shall be, at minimum, 50 feet from the perimeter of the population or the individual; the qualified plant ecologist/biologist may increase this minimum buffer depending on species and location. A smaller buffer may be established, provided there are adequate measures in place to avoid the take of the species, with the approval of the USFWS, CDFW, and the CPUC.

Where impacts to listed plants are determined to be unavoidable, the USFWS and/or CDFW shall be consulted for authorization. Additional mitigation measures to protect or restore listed plant species or their habitat, including but not limited to a salvage plan including seed collection and replanting, may be required by the USFWS or CDFW before impacts are authorized, whichever is appropriate.

Take of State and federally listed Threatened and Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, Candidate, and other special-status plants may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and

implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) with the MSHCP shall be provided to the CPUC prior to any take of this species.

BIO-19 Compensate for Impacts to State and Federally Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, and Candidate Plants. Compensate for Impacts to State and Federally Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, and Candidate Plants. To compensate for permanent impacts to State and federally Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned and Candidate plants, habitat that is not already public land shall be preserved and managed in perpetuity at a 1:1 mitigation ratio (One acre preserved for each acre impacted). Prior to the disturbance of habitat for or take of listed plant species, SCE will be required to obtain CPUC approval of preserved and/or mitigation lands as well as provide documentation of a recorded conservation easement(s). Compensation for temporary impacts shall include land acquisition and/or preservation at a 0.5:1 ratio. The preserved habitat for a significantly impacted plant species shall be of equal or greater habitat quality to the impacted areas in terms of soil features, extent of disturbance, vegetation structure, and will contain verified extant populations, of the same size or greater, of the State or federally listed plants that are impacted. A conservation easement would need to be recorded on all property associated with the mitigation lands as to protect the existing plant resources in perpetuity. A conservation easement could be held by CDFW or an approved land management entity and shall be recorded immediately upon the dedication or acquisition of the land. Preserved or acquired mitigation lands will be monitored and maintained per the requirements set forth in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan prepared for the project, discussed above under Mitigation Measure BIO-17.

However, if lands acquired or protected for the compensation of permanent impacts to burrowing owl, SKR, and/or vegetative communities contain similar sized populations of the impacted listed plant species, no further mitigation would be required. The location of all lands proposed for mitigation land must be submitted to the CPUC, for review and approval, prior to the start of construction mobilization activities.

If SCE becomes a PSE with the MSHCP this compensation may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including verification of mitigation fee payments, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to construction mobilization activities.

BIO-20 Complete Focused Pre-construction Western Spadefoot Toad Surveys and Implement Avoidance Measures. Prior the site mobilization, SCE shall retain a CPUC approved/qualified biologist to conduct the following:

- a. Conduct a pre-construction survey during the appropriate time of year when this species can be detected (i.e., during periods of suitable rainfall that result in pooling or the formation of other aquatic habitat) to determine the presence of western spadefoot toad and related habitat.
- b. Should the toad and habitat be found, and be impacted by temporary and/or permanent project impacts, a habitat restoration and management plan shall be prepared for review and approval by the CPUC, that addresses the following:
 1. Impacted occupied breeding habitat to be replaced, on-site, at a 2:1 ratio.

2. Relocation areas shall be designed as suitable toad habitat, and as far away as feasible from any project related structure or foreseeable construction area (minimum 250-foot buffer from construction activities).
3. Terrestrial habitat surrounding the proposed relocation site shall be as similar in type, aspect, and density to the location of the existing ponds as feasible.
4. No site preparation or construction activities shall be permitted in the vicinity of any occupied ponds until the design and construction of the relocation habitat in preserved areas of the site has been completed and all western spadefoot toad adults, tadpoles, and egg masses detected are moved to the created pool habitat. If egg masses or tadpoles are relocated, the newly constructed ponds shall also be inoculated with algae laden plant material/and or water from the source ponds to provide a viable food source.
5. Restoration areas shall be monitored and maintained until they are shown as successful habitat for the toad, or up to five years. Success criteria shall be proposed. Provisions to make adjustments to remediate problems shall also be included.
6. Permanent protection and management of restoration areas (e.g., conservation easement or fee title purchase, etc.).

Annually, for the duration of construction activities and based on appropriate rainfall and temperatures (generally between the months of February and April) the biologist shall conduct a series of pre-construction surveys in all appropriate vegetation communities within the project footprint. Surveys will include evaluation of all previously documented occupied areas and a reconnaissance level survey of the remaining natural areas of the site. All western spadefoot adults, tadpoles, and egg masses encountered shall be collected and released in the identified/created restoration ponds described above.

If SCE becomes a PSE with the MSHCP, this habitat restoration and management may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment verification, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site mobilization activities.

BIO-21 Conduct Surveys for Two-striped Garter Snakes and Implement Avoidance Measures. Prior to ground disturbance or vegetation clearing in the VSSP area, SCE shall retain a qualified biologist, approved by the CPUC, to conduct focused surveys for two-striped garter snakes where suitable habitat is present and directly impacted by construction, vehicle access, or maintenance. Focused surveys shall consist of a minimum of four daytime surveys within one week of vegetation clearing. The qualified biologist will be present during all activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of the two-striped garter snake. Clearance surveys for garter snakes shall be conducted by the authorized biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day. Any snakes found within the area of disturbance or potentially affected by the VSSP will be relocated to the nearest suitable habitat that will not be affected by the VSSP.

BIO-22 Conduct Surveys for Terrestrial Herpetofauna and Implement Monitoring, Avoidance, and Minimization Measures. Prior to ground disturbance or vegetation clearing within the VSSP site, SCE shall retain a CPUC approved/qualified biologist to conduct surveys for terrestrial

herpetofauna where suitable habitat is present and directly impacted by construction vehicle access, or maintenance. Focused surveys shall consist of a minimum of three daytime surveys and one nighttime survey within one week of vegetation clearing. The qualified biologist will be present during all activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports terrestrial herpetofauna. Clearance surveys for terrestrial herpetofauna shall be conducted by the qualified biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day in suitable habitat. Terrestrial herpetofauna found within the area of disturbance or potentially affected by the VSSP will be relocated to the nearest suitable habitat that will not be affected by the VSSP.

BIO-23 Survey for Maternity Colonies or Hibernaculum for Roosting Bats. Prior to ground disturbance or vegetation clearing at all VSSP locations, SCE shall retain a qualified biologist, approved by the CPUC, to conduct surveys for sensitive bats. Surveys shall be conducted no more than 15 days prior to grading near or the removal of trees or other structures. Surveys shall also be conducted during the maternity season (1 March to 31 July) within 300 feet of VSSP activities. If active maternity roosts or hibernacula are found, the structure, tree or tower occupied by the roost shall be avoided (i.e., not removed), if feasible. If avoidance of the maternity roost is not feasible the qualified biologist will implement the following actions.

- **Maternity roosts.** If a maternity roost will be impacted by the VSSP, and no alternative maternity roosts are in use near the site, substitute roosting habitat for the maternity colony shall be provided on, or in close proximity to, the VSSP site no less than three months prior to the eviction of the colony. Alternative roost sites will be constructed in accordance with the specific bats requirements in coordination with CDFW. By making the roosting habitat available prior to eviction, the colony will have a better chance of finding and using the roost. Alternative roost sites must be of comparable size and proximal in location to the impacted colony. The CDFW shall be notified of any hibernacula or active nurseries within the construction zone.
- **Exclusion of bats prior to eviction from roosts.** If non-breeding bat hibernacula are found in trees scheduled to be removed, the individuals shall be safely evicted, under the direction of a qualified biologist, by opening the roosting area to allow airflow through the cavity or other means determined appropriate by the bat biologist (e.g., installation of one-way doors). In situations requiring one-way doors, a minimum of one week shall pass after doors are installed and temperatures should be sufficiently warm for bats to exit the roost because bats do not typically leave their roost daily during winter months in southern California. This action should allow all bats to leave during the course of one week. Roosts that need to be removed in situations where the use of one-way doors is not necessary in the judgment of the qualified biologist shall first be disturbed by various means at the direction of the bat biologist at dusk to allow bats to escape during the darker hours, and the roost tree shall be removed or the grading shall occur the next day (i.e., there shall be no less or more than one night between initial disturbance and the grading or tree removal).

BIO-24 Compensate for Impacts to Special-Status Plant Species. If VSSP related impacts result in the loss of more than 10% of the on-site population of any special-status plant species with a CRPR rank of 1A, 1B, or 2, compensatory mitigation will be required. Prior to the disturbance of habitat for or take of special-status plants/populations, SCE must receive CPUC approval of preserved and/or mitigation lands as well as present documentation of a recorded conservation easement(s). Compensation will be required for all impacts that exceed the 10% threshold (e.g. impacts to 15% of a population will only require compensation for 5% or the amount of impacts

that exceed the 10% threshold). To compensate for permanent (including areas located beneath the arrays) impacts to special-status plant species, habitat (which may include preservation of areas within the undisturbed areas of the VSSP footprint, mitigation lands outside of VSSP site or a combination of both) that is not already public land shall be preserved and managed in perpetuity at a 1:1 mitigation ratio (one acre preserved for each acre impacted). Compensation for temporary impacts shall include land acquisition and/or preservation at a 0.5:1 ratio. The preserved habitat for a significantly impacted plant species shall be of equal or greater habitat quality to the impacted areas in terms of soil features, extent of disturbance, vegetation structure, and will contain verified extant populations, of the same size or greater, of the special-status plants that are impacted. Impacts could include direct impacts resulting from loss of habitat or indirect impacts if a significant population or portion thereof is unable to be avoided. A conservation easement would need to be recorded on all property associated with the mitigation lands as to protect the existing plant resources in perpetuity. A conservation easement could be held by CDFW or an approved land management entity and shall be recorded immediately upon the dedication or acquisition of the land. Preserved or acquired mitigation lands will be monitored and maintained per the requirements set forth in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan prepared for the project, discussed above (Mitigation Measure BIO-17).

However, if lands acquired or protected for the compensation of permanent impacts species such as burrowing owl (Mitigation Measure BIO-25), and/or vegetative communities (Mitigation Measure BIO-3) contain similar sized populations of the impacted special-status plant species, of equal or greater habitat value, these mitigation lands may be used to achieve the required compensation ratios for special-status plant species.

If SCE becomes a PSE with the MSHCP this compensation may be accomplished through participation and implementation of the MSHCP requirements. Documentation of participation (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) and compliance with the MSHCP, including verification of mitigation fee payments, shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to construction mobilization activities.

BIO-25 Complete Focused Pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys and Implement Avoidance Measures. No more than 15 days prior to the commencement of initial ground disturbing for individual VSSP areas, SCE shall implement focused pre-construction reconnaissance level surveys for burrowing owls. Surveys shall be conducted prior to the initiation of ground disturbance and be conducted by a qualified biologist(s), approved by the CPUC, that is knowledgeable with the species. In conformance with federal and State regulations regarding the protection of raptors, surveys for burrowing owls shall be conducted in conformance with CDFW's 2012 Staff Report on burrowing owl mitigation. Surveys shall be completed within all areas proposed for ground disturbance (including a minimum 250-foot survey buffer) and shall include the following avoidance measures:

- a. Occupied burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season (1 February through 31 August) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFW verifies through non-invasive methods that either the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation or that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. Owls present on site after 1 February will be assumed to be nesting unless evidence indicates otherwise. This protected buffer area will remain in effect until 31 August, or based

upon monitoring evidence, until the young owls are foraging independently or the nest is no longer active

- b. Unless otherwise authorized by CDFW and the CPUC, a 250-foot buffer, within which no activity will be permissible, will be maintained between VSSP activities and nesting burrowing owls during the nesting season. This protected area will remain in effect until 31 August or based upon monitoring evidence, until the young owls are foraging independently. For burrowing owls present during the non-breeding season (generally 1 September to 31 January), a 150-ft buffer zone will be maintained around the occupied burrow(s).
- c. If there is any danger that owls will be injured or killed as a result of construction activity, during the non-breeding season, the birds may be passively relocated. Relocation of owls during the non-breeding season will be performed by a qualified biologist using one-way doors, which should be installed in all burrows within the impact area and left in place for at least two nights. These one-way doors will then be removed and the burrows backfilled immediately prior to the initiation of grading. To avoid the potential for owls evicted from a burrow to occupy other burrows within the impact area, one-way doors will be placed in all potentially suitable burrows within the impact area when eviction occurs.
- d. Any damaged or collapsed burrows will be replaced with artificial burrows in adjacent habitat at a 2:1 ratio.

Take of individuals may be covered by the MSHCP if SCE becomes a PSE and implements the requirements of the MSHCP. Documentation of participation and compliance (i.e., Certificate of Inclusion) with the MSHCP, including mitigation fee payment confirmation, shall be provided to the CPUC prior site mobilization activities.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- CR-1 Avoid Environmentally Sensitive Areas.** SCE shall perform focused pre-construction surveys for any project areas not yet surveyed (e.g. new or modified staging areas, pull sites, or other work areas). Resources discovered during the surveys, as well as all other resources identified within the Project area, would be subject to Mitigation Measure CR-2 (Develop Cultural Resource Management Plan [CRMP]) and CR-4 (Conduct Construction Monitoring). Where operationally feasible, all CRHR-eligible resources shall be protected from direct project impacts by project redesign (i.e., relocation of the line, ancillary facilities, or temporary facilities or work areas). In addition, historic resources shall be avoided by all Project construction and operation and maintenance. Avoidance mechanisms shall include fencing off such areas as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for the duration of the construction of the Project.
- CR-2 Develop Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP).** SCE, in consultation with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga Tribe), shall prepare and submit for approval a CRMP to guide all cultural resource management activities during Project construction. The CRMP shall specify that archaeologists and other discipline specialists conducting the studies meet the Professional Qualifications Standards mandated by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The CRMP shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days before the start of construction.

The CRMP shall detail how all known cultural resources within the Project area will be avoided or treated. The CRMP shall define construction procedures for areas near known/recorded

cultural sites. Wherever a pole, access road, equipment, etc., must be placed or accessed within 100 feet of a recorded, reported, or known cultural resources eligible or potentially eligible for the CRHR, the site will be flagged on the ground as an ESA (without disclosure of the exact nature of the environmental sensitivity [i.e., the ESA is not identified as containing a sensitive cultural resource]), unless otherwise agreed to by the CPUC and Pechanga Tribe. Construction equipment shall then be directed away from the ESA, and construction personnel shall be directed not to enter the ESA, unless otherwise agreed to by the CPUC and the Pechanga Tribe. Archaeological and Tribal monitoring of Project construction shall be focused in the immediate vicinity of the designated ESAs, unless otherwise directed in the CRMP as determined by the CPUC and the Pechanga Tribe.

The CRMP shall also define any additional areas that are considered to be of high-sensitivity for discovery of buried CRHR-eligible cultural resources, including burials, cremations, or sacred features. The CRMP shall detail provisions for monitoring construction in these high-sensitivity areas. It shall also detail procedures for halting construction, making appropriate notifications to agencies, officials, and Native Americans, and assessing CRHR eligibility in the event that unknown cultural resources are discovered during construction. For all unanticipated cultural resource discoveries, the CRMP shall detail the methods, the consultation procedures, and the timelines for assessing CRHR eligibility, determine if avoidance is feasible, formulate a mitigation plan if required, and implement treatment (see Mitigation Measure CR-6 [Treat Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources]). Mitigation and treatment plans for unanticipated discoveries (except for human remains, grave goods, and sacred/ceremonial objects, which are addressed in Mitigation Measure CR-7 [Properly Treat Human Remains]) shall be reviewed by appropriate Native Americans and approved by the CPUC and the OHP prior to implementation.

The CRMP shall include provisions for analysis of data in a regional context, reporting of results within one year of completion of field studies, curation of artifacts (except from private land) and data (maps, field notes, archival materials, recordings, reports, photographs, and analysts' data) at a facility that is approved by CPUC, and dissemination of reports to local and State repositories, libraries, and interested professionals. SCE shall attempt to gain permission for artifacts from privately held land to be curated with the other project collections.

- CR-3 Train Construction Personnel.** Prior to the initiation of construction, and after approval of the CRMP, all construction personnel shall be trained, by a qualified archaeologist and a representative from the Pechanga Tribe, regarding the recognition of possible buried cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric and/or historical artifacts, objects, or features) and protection of all archaeological resources during construction. SCE shall complete training for all construction personnel. Training shall inform all construction personnel of the procedures to be followed upon the discovery of cultural materials. All personnel shall be instructed that unauthorized removal or collection of artifacts is a violation of State law. Any excavation contract (or contracts for other activities that may have subsurface soil impacts) shall include clauses that require construction personnel to attend training so they are aware of the potential for inadvertently exposing buried archaeological deposits. SCE shall provide a background briefing for supervisory construction personnel describing the potential for exposing cultural resources, the location of any potential ESA, and anticipated procedures to treat unexpected discoveries.
- CR-4 Conduct Construction Monitoring.** Archaeological and Tribal monitoring shall occur in all areas of ground-disturbing activity that occur within 100 feet of a cultural resource ESA. Archaeological

monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist familiar with the types of historic and prehistoric cultural resources that could be encountered within the Project area. The qualifications of the principal archaeologist and cultural resource monitors shall be approved by the CPUC. As specified in the CRMP, intermittent monitoring may occur in areas of moderate archaeological sensitivity at the discretion of the principal archaeologist, as identified in the CRMP. Copies of monitoring reports shall be submitted to the CPUC on a weekly basis.

- CR-5 Continued Native American Consultation.** SCE shall provide assistance to the CPUC, as requested by the CPUC, to continue consultation with interested Native American tribes and individuals throughout the duration of the Project to assess the impact of the Project on cultural resources of Native American concern. As directed by the CPUC, SCE shall undertake required treatments, studies, or other actions that result from such consultation. Written documentation of the completion of all pre-construction actions shall be submitted by SCE and approved by the CPUC at least 60 days before the commencement of construction activities. Actions that are required during or after construction shall be defined, detailed, and scheduled in the Cultural Resource Management Plan and implemented by SCE, consistent with Mitigation Measure CR-2 (Develop Cultural Resource Management Plan).
- CR-6 Treat Previously Unidentified Cultural Resources.** If previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction activities, construction work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and directed away from the discovery until a qualified archaeologist assesses the potential significance of the resource. Once the find has been inspected and a preliminary assessment made, SCE will consult with the CPUC to make the necessary plans for evaluation and treatment of the find(s), as detailed in the CRMP (see Mitigation Measure CR-2 [Develop Cultural Resource Management Plan]).
- CR-7 Properly Treat Human Remains.** SCE shall follow all State laws, statutes, and regulations that govern the treatment of human remains. Avoidance and protection of inadvertent discoveries which contain human remains shall be the preferred protection strategy with complete avoidance of impacts to such resources protected from direct Project impacts by Project redesign.

If human remains are discovered during construction, all work shall be diverted from the area of the discovery and the CPUC shall be informed immediately. The remains shall be treated in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. SCE shall assist and support the CPUC, as appropriate, in all required consultations with Native Americans, agencies and commissions, and consulting parties as requested by the CPUC. SCE shall comply with and implement all required actions and studies that result from such consultations.

- CR-8 Inventory and Evaluate Paleontological Resources.** Prior to construction and all other surface-disturbing activities, SCE shall have conducted and submitted an inventory of significant paleontological resources within the Project area (i.e., PaleoSolutions, 2014). If any changes are made to the extent or alignment of the Project subsequent to the completed field surveys and inventory, then additional field surveys shall be conducted within new project areas and the inventory report shall be updated to reflect the new project design. The additional field surveys shall be conducted outside of the previously surveyed potential impact areas in locations identified as having undetermined or high paleontological resource potential. The purpose of

the field survey is to visually inspect the ground surface for exposed fossils and to evaluate geologic exposures for their potential to contain preserved fossil material at the subsurface.

As part of the inventory report, the paleontological sensitivity rankings of geologic units examined in the field shall be refined based on the results of the pedestrian surveys. Per SVP (2010) guidelines, geologic units assigned an undetermined paleontological resource potential shall be designated as having either high, low, or no sensitivity subsequent to sufficient survey and research, and prior to the development of a Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The report shall be submitted to the CPUC for review at least 60 days before the start of construction, and shall be modified in response to agency comments, with the final report completed at least 30 days before the first ground disturbance.

CR-9 Develop Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. Following completion and approval of the Paleontological Resources Inventory (required in Mitigation Measure CR-8) and prior to the start of ground-disturbing construction, SCE shall prepare and submit to the CPUC for review and approval, a Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Plan), consistent with the following requirements:

- The Plan shall be prepared by a Qualified Paleontologist (i.e., Project Paleontologist) and shall be based on the SVP (2010) guidelines and meet all regulatory requirements. The qualified paleontologist shall have a graduate degree in paleontology or geology, shall have knowledge of the local paleontology, and shall be familiar with paleontological procedures and techniques. Experience and local expertise may be substituted for academic training on approval from the contracting agency. The qualifications of the Project Paleontologist shall be approved by the CPUC.
- The Plan shall identify construction impact areas of high sensitivity for encountering significant resources and the approximate depths at which those resources are likely to be encountered.
- The Plan shall define monitoring procedures and shall outline a coordination strategy to ensure that a qualified paleontological monitor will conduct full-time monitoring of all ground disturbance in sediments determined to have a high sensitivity. The Plan shall specify that geologic units with an undetermined sensitivity that has not been resolved to high, low, or no sensitivity following the Paleontological Resources Inventory (required in Mitigation Measure CR-8), shall be monitored on a part-time basis (as determined by the Qualified Paleontologist). Sediments with no or low sensitivity will not require paleontological monitoring. The qualified paleontological monitor shall have at least a B.S. in Geology or Paleontology, and demonstrated field experience in the collection and identification of fossil material. The qualifications of the paleontological monitor(s) shall be approved by the CPUC.
- The Plan shall detail the significance criteria to be used to determine which resources will be avoided and which shall be recovered for their data potential. For significant fossils, recovery is preferred over avoidance in order to alleviate looting concerns during operational impacts. The Plan shall also detail methods of recovery, preparation and analysis of specimens, final curation of specimens at an appropriate accredited museum repository, data analysis, and reporting.

CR-10 Train Construction Personnel. Prior to the initiation of Project development in areas of undetermined or high paleontological sensitivity, all construction personnel shall be trained

regarding the recognition of possible paleontological resources and protection of all paleontological resources during construction. Training shall inform all construction personnel of the procedures to be followed upon the discovery of paleontological materials. All personnel shall be instructed that unauthorized collection or disturbance of protected fossils will not be allowed. Violators will be subject to prosecution under the appropriate State and local laws and violations will be grounds for removal from the Project. Unauthorized collection or disturbance of fossil materials may constitute grounds for the issuance of a stop work order. The following issues shall be addressed in training or in preparation for construction:

- All construction contracts shall include clauses that require construction personnel to attend training so they are aware of the potential for inadvertently exposing subsurface paleontological resources, their responsibility to avoid and protect all such resources, and the penalties for collection, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction of paleontological resources.
- SCE shall provide a background briefing for supervisory personnel describing the potential for exposing paleontological resources, the location of any potential areas of high sensitivity, and procedures and notifications required in the event of discoveries by project personnel or paleontological monitors. Supervisory personnel shall enforce restrictions on collection or disturbance of fossils.
- Upon discovery of paleontological resources by paleontologists or construction personnel, work in the immediate area of the find shall be diverted and the Qualified Paleontologist notified. Once the find has been inspected and a preliminary assessment made, then the Qualified Paleontologist will notify SCE and the CPUC and proceed with data recovery in accordance with the approved Plan consistent with Mitigation Measure CR-9 (Develop Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan).

CR-11 Monitor Construction for Paleontological Resources. Based on the Paleontological Resources Inventory and Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan consistent with Mitigation Measure CR-9 (Develop Paleontological Mitigation and Monitoring Plan), SCE shall have the qualified paleontological monitor conduct full-time construction monitoring in areas determined to have high paleontological sensitivity. If sediments with undetermined sensitivity are mapped within the Project boundary, those areas shall be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor on a part-time basis (as determined by the Qualified Paleontologist). Monitoring will consist of the visual inspection of augering activities and spoils piles at the locations of the boreholes, as well as any trench sidewalls and excavated or graded areas for roadways, tower pads, and other ancillary structures. At no time will a monitor enter an unsafe cut or unshored trench/borehole. Monitoring of augering activities with boreholes less than 12 inches in diameter will not be necessary. Screening of sedimentary matrix to check for the presence of microvertebrates, if they are believed to be present, will be conducted, as necessary. In the event that a paleontological resource is discovered, the monitor will have the authority to temporarily divert the construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance and collected. A temporary construction exclusion zone (i.e., environmentally sensitive area [ESA]) of at least 50 feet, consisting at a minimum of lath and flagging tape, will be erected around the discovery. The exclusion zone acts as a buffer around the discovery and is maintained for safety. The monitor will immediately report the discovery to the Qualified Paleontologist so that appropriate notifications can be immediately issued to SCE and the CPUC. Construction activities can occur outside the buffer if it is safe to do so. The size of the buffer may be increased or decreased once the monitor adequately explores the

discovery to determine its size and significance. Copies of Monitoring Reports shall be submitted to SCE and the CPUC on a weekly basis.

CR-12 Final Reporting and Curation. All significant fossils collected will be prepared in a properly equipped paleontology laboratory to a point ready for curation no more than 60 days after all fieldwork is completed. Preparation will include the careful removal of excess matrix from fossil materials and stabilizing and repairing specimens, as necessary. Following laboratory work, all fossils specimens will be identified to the lowest taxonomic level, cataloged, analyzed, and delivered to an accredited museum repository for permanent curation and storage. The cost of curation is assessed by the repository and is the responsibility of SCE.

At the conclusion of laboratory work and museum curation of any discovered paleontological resources, a final report will be prepared describing the results of the paleontological resource monitoring efforts associated with the Project. The report will include a summary of the field and laboratory methods, an overview of the Project area geology and paleontology, a list of taxa recovered (if any), an analysis of fossils recovered (if any) and their scientific significance, and recommendations. A copy of the report will also be submitted to the designated museum repository.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1 Investigations for Liquefaction. Because seismically induced liquefaction-related ground failure has the potential to damage or destroy Project components, the design-level geotechnical investigations to be performed by SCE shall include investigations designed to assess the potential for liquefaction to affect new Project structures with foundations (such as Tubular Steel Poles) in areas with moderate to very high potential for liquefaction-related impacts. Where these hazards are found to exist, appropriate engineering design and construction measures shall be incorporated into the Project designs as deemed appropriate by the Project engineer. Design measures that would mitigate liquefaction-related impacts could include ground improvement of liquefiable zones, installation of flexible bus connections, and incorporation of slack in cables to allow ground deformations without damage to structures. Study results and proposed solutions to mitigate liquefaction shall be provided to the CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days before final Project design.

GEO-2 Assess Soil Characteristics. The design-level geotechnical studies to be performed for the Project shall include soils analyses to identify the presence, if any, of potentially detrimental soil chemicals, such as chlorides and sulfates, detrimental soil pH at Tubular Steel Pole (TSP) and Light Weight Steel Pole locations and testing for soils with moderate to high shrink/swell or expansion potential at TSP locations. If corrosive soils are identified, appropriate design measures for protection of reinforcement, concrete, and metal structural components against corrosion shall be utilized, such as use of corrosion-resistant materials and coatings, and increased thickness of Project components exposed to potentially corrosive conditions. If expansive soils are identified, the Project design shall be modified to include appropriate design features such as excavation of potentially expansive soils during construction and replacement with engineered backfill, ground-treatment processes, and redirection of surface water and drainage away from expansive foundation soils. Study results and proposed solutions to mitigate expansive or corrosive soils conditions shall be provided to the CPUC for review and approval at least 60 days before final Project design.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1 Identify Pesticide/Herbicide Contamination. Prior to Project construction, soil samples shall be collected and analyzed for pesticides and/or herbicides in proposed construction disturbance areas, where prior to 1996 (implementation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act [FIFRA]) the land has historically been used for agricultural purposes, to identify the possibility of and to delineate the extent of pesticide and/or herbicide contamination. In such areas, if the analysis results reveal elevated contaminant concentration in the soil which could result in contaminant concentration levels in the air or airborne particles that are higher than the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) permissible exposure levels (PELs), trained workers with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be utilized for construction activities in these areas. Materials containing elevated levels of pesticide or herbicide in areas of trenching or excavation will require special handling and disposal procedures. Soils that need to be disposed of shall be handled in accordance to applicable laws and regulations. The local Certified Unified Program Agency or relevant entity shall be contacted, as appropriate, to provide oversight regarding the handling, treatment, and/or disposal options for pesticide or herbicide contaminated soil. Standard dust suppression procedures (as defined in Mitigation Measure AQ-1, Fugitive Dust Control) shall be used in these construction areas to reduce airborne emissions of these contaminants and reduce the risk of exposure to workers and the public.

Hydrology and Water Quality

HYD-1 Use Non-potable Water. Project water supply for dust control, soil compaction activities, and site restoration/revegetation shall be obtained from non-potable sources, if available, and ensured in a water contract through a local water agency or district. SCE shall provide a letter describing the availability of non-potable water and efforts made to obtain it for use during construction to the CPUC a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of construction.

Land Use and Planning

LU-1 Property Access and Restoration. SCE shall ensure that all affected property owners within 300 feet of the right-of-way (ROW) are provided with at least one point of vehicular (passenger car and truck) and pedestrian access to their respective properties throughout all phases of construction. Immediately following the completion of construction, SCE shall ensure that all properties and uses affected by construction outside of the ROW are restored to the extent feasible to their pre-construction conditions or to the conditions agreed upon between the landowner and SCE following completion of construction.

LU-2 Coordination with School District. SCE shall coordinate with the Perris Union High School District and Heritage High School regarding the following:

- Schedule noise generating construction activities that are anticipated to result in noise levels greater than 75 A-weighted decibels, and are planned to occur within 1,000 feet of the Heritage High School, during a period that would be the least disruptive to the school's operations which generally occur between 7:45 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.
- Schedule and/or re-route the arrival and departure of construction workers and equipment to avoid the peak morning and afternoon school commute periods along Highway 74 and Briggs Road.

LU-3 Coordination with Project Developers near or in the proposed Project Alignment. SCE shall coordinate with project developers who have approved projects (by a decision-making body such as the Board of Supervisors) adjacent to the Valley South Project alignment and that will be constructed within the same time frame as the Valley South Project to minimize cumulative construction impacts. This coordination shall include (1) providing the transmission line route and construction schedule; (2) coordinating construction activities; and (3) coordinating utility disruptions and road closures, as applicable. A minimum of 30 days prior to construction, SCE shall provide the CPUC with written documentation that verifies coordination with project developers, as applicable, and in particular, document status and coordination on the pending tentative tract map (TTM 36467) near the Project alignment.

Noise

NOI-1 Construction Work Hours. No construction activities shall occur outside the following hours and days unless SCE provides a minimum of five days advanced notification to the CPUC, the local jurisdiction, and residences within 300 feet of the anticipated work, including a general description of the work to be performed, location, and hours of construction anticipated. SCE shall also route all construction traffic away from residences, schools, and recreational facilities to the maximum extent feasible.

- County of Riverside. If activities occur within one-quarter mile of an inhabited dwelling, construction shall occur between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. from June through September and 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. from October through May.
- City of Perris. Between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No construction is allowed on Sundays or legal holidays, with the exception of Columbus Day and Washington's Birthday.
- City of Menifee. If activities occur within one-quarter mile of an inhabited dwelling, construction shall occur between 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, from June through September and 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, from October through May. No construction is allowed on Sundays or nationally recognized holidays.
- City of Temecula. If the activities occur within one-quarter mile of an inhabited dwelling, construction shall occur between 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction activities are only allowed between 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. No construction activities are allowed on Sunday or nationally recognized holidays.

NOI-2 Implement Best Management Practices for Construction Noise. SCE shall implement the following noise-suppression techniques, at a minimum, to reduce construction noise levels to the extent feasible:

- On construction equipment, use noise reduction features (e.g., mufflers and engine shrouds) that are no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturer.
- Minimize unnecessary construction vehicle idling time (see also Mitigation Measure AQ-2, Off-Road Equipment Emissions Control). The ability to limit construction vehicle idling time is dependent upon the sequence of construction activities and when and where vehicles are needed or staged. A "common sense" approach to vehicle use shall be applied; if a vehicle is not required for use immediately or continuously for construction activities, its engine shall

be shut off. (Note: Certain equipment, such as large diesel-powered vehicles, require extended idling for warm-up and repetitive construction tasks and would therefore not be subject to being shut off when not in use.)

- Electric-powered equipment shall be used instead of pneumatic or internal combustion power equipment, where feasible.
- The use of noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells, shall be limited to safety warning purposes only.
- Provide a Project hotline where residents can call with questions or issues. All calls shall be returned by the Applicant and/or its contractor within 24 hours to answer noise questions and handle complaints. Documentation of the complaint and resolution shall be submitted to the CPUC monthly. A clear appeal process with the CPUC shall be established prior to construction commencement that allows for resolution of noise problems that cannot be immediately solved.
- Where feasible, construction traffic shall be routed away from residences, schools, and recreational facilities.

Recreation

REC-1 Identify and Provide Noticing of Affected Recreation Areas. SCE shall coordinate with applicable local or regional agencies and/or an agency representative(s) for all recreational areas affected by Project construction for the following purposes:

- Identify recreational areas (e.g. trails) that would be closed or limited in use during Project construction activities;
- To the extent feasible, in coordination with agency representative(s), for recreation areas that would be unavailable to the public due to Project construction, schedule construction activities to avoid heavy recreational use periods (including major holidays);
- Post a public notice that identifies construction information (e.g. schedule, contact person) at or near the recreational areas affected by Project construction; and
- Restore affected recreational areas to pre-construction conditions as agreed upon between SCE and the local or regional agencies and/or agency representative(s).

SCE shall document these coordination efforts with local and regional agencies and/or an agency representative(s), and identify how noticing and restoration at affected recreational use areas will be accomplished.

Transportation and Traffic

TRA-1 Construction Traffic Control Plan. Prior to the start of construction, SCE shall submit a Construction Traffic Control Plan for review and approval by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) [for affected freeways], the CPUC, and all agencies with jurisdiction over public roads and transportation facilities that would be directly affected by the construction activities and/or would require permits and approvals. The Construction Traffic Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- The locations and use of flaggers, warning signs, lights, barricades, delineators, cones, arrow boards, etc. according to standard guidelines outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic

Control Devices, the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, and/or the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual.

- The locations of all road or traffic lane segments that would need to be temporarily closed or disrupted due to construction activities.
- The locations where guard poles, netting, or similar means to protect transportation facilities for any construction or conductor installation work requiring the crossing of a local street, high-way, or rail line are proposed.
- The use of continuous traffic breaks operated by the California Highway Patrol on state highways (if necessary).
- Additional methods to reduce temporary traffic delays to the maximum extent feasible during peak traffic periods (6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., or as directed in writing by the affected public agency in encroachment or other permits). This should also include feasible ways to avoid construction-related trips on I-15 and I-215 during peak traffic periods.
- Prior to the start of construction, provide copies of all approved transportation-related permits and agreements to the CPUC, including methods to comply with all specified requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Encroachment Permit(s) from all affected jurisdictions.
 - Necessary permits or coordination with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for the rail line crossing.
- Plans to provide written notification to property owners and tenants at properties affected by access restrictions to inform them about the timing and duration of obstructions and to arrange for alternative access if necessary. The coordination shall occur at least one week prior to any blockages.
- Plans to coordinate in advance with emergency service providers to avoid restricting the movements of emergency vehicles. Police departments and fire departments shall be notified in advance by SCE of the proposed locations, nature, timing, and duration of any roadway disruptions, and shall be advised of any access restrictions that could impact their effectiveness. At locations where roads will be blocked, provisions shall be ready at all times to accommodate emergency vehicles, such as immediately stopping work for emergency vehicle passage, providing short detours, and developing alternate routes in conjunction with the public agencies. Documentation of the coordination with police and fire departments shall be provided to the CPUC prior to the start of construction.
- Provisions for ensuring detours or safe movement of pedestrians and bicycles through all affected facilities.
- Plans to coordinate with affected bus transit agencies (if applicable) at least one month prior to construction to minimize the impacts associated with the interruption of bus transit service. Documentation of the coordination with bus transit companies shall be provided to the CPUC prior to the start of construction.
- Define the method to maintaining close coordination, prior to and during construction, with all agencies responsible for encroachment permits on each affected roadway, to minimize

cumulative impacts of multiple simultaneous construction projects affecting shared portions of the circulation system.

TRA-2 Comply with FAA 7460-1 Determination Recommendations. Pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines, SCE shall submit FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration, to the Manager of the FAA Air Traffic Division for review and approval of the approved Project. SCE shall provide all FAA determinations to the CPUC. SCE shall implement all recommended safety features or Project design changes recommended by the FAA through the FAA 7460-1 process and provide documentation to the CPUC of their implementation.

TRA-3 Repair Roadways and Transportation Facilities Damaged by Construction Activities. If roadways, sidewalks, bike lanes, medians, curbs, shoulders, or other such transportation features are damaged by Project construction activities, as determined by the affected public agency, such damage shall be repaired and restored to their pre-Project condition by SCE. Prior to construction, SCE shall confer with agencies having jurisdiction over the roads anticipated to be used by heavy delivery vehicles and equipment. At least 30 days prior to construction, SCE shall photograph or video record all transportation facilities within 500 feet in each direction of heavy vehicle ingress/egress points from public roadways, and shall provide the CPUC, the respective local jurisdictions, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) [if applicable] with a copy of these images.

At the end of major construction, SCE shall coordinate with each affected jurisdiction to confirm what repairs are required. Any damage is to be repaired to the pre-construction condition within 60 days from the end of all construction, or on a schedule mutually agreed to by SCE and the affected jurisdiction. SCE shall provide the CPUC, the respective local jurisdictions, and Caltrans (if applicable) proof when any necessary repairs have been completed.

Applicant Proposed Measures

As noted earlier, SCE identified Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) in its Proponent’s Environmental Assessment submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission. The impact analysis conducted in the EIR assumes that all APMs would be implemented as defined in the table below. In some cases, mitigation measures either expand upon or add detail to the APMs, as necessary to ensure that potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)	
APM	Description
Air Quality	
APM AIR-1	Construction crew vehicle speeds on non-public unpaved roadways would be restricted to 15 miles per hour.
APM AIR-2	Dust suppression would be implemented on all active nonpublic unpaved access roadways (e.g. using water or chemical suppressant).
APM AIR-3	Off-road diesel construction equipment with a rating between 100 and 750 horsepower would be required to use engines compliant with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tier 3 non-road engine standards. In the event a Tier 3 engine is not available, that engine would be equipped with a Tier 2 engine and documentation would be provided from a local rental company stating that the rental company does not currently have the required diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment or that the vehicle is specialized and is not available to rent. Similarly, if a Tier 2 engine is not available, that engine would be equipped with a Tier 1 engine and documentation would be provided.

Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)

APM	Description
Biology	
APM BIO-1	Preconstruction Survey and Construction Monitoring – Preconstruction biological clearance surveys shall be performed at specific construction and other work sites where potential biological resources are located to minimize impacts on special status wildlife and plant species. If special status species are present, biological monitors shall be on-site, as needed, and shall aid crews in implementing avoidance measures during construction. Special status species observations and avoidance measures will be reported to the appropriate wildlife agencies prior to construction in that area. In addition, appropriate agencies will be provided a monthly report summarizing all special status species observations and avoidance measures.
APM BIO-2	Nesting Bird Preconstruction Surveys – SCE would conduct preconstruction clearance surveys no more than 7 days prior to construction to determine the location of nesting birds and territories. Nesting survey results and avoidance measures, if applicable, will be reported to the appropriate wildlife agencies prior to construction in that area. An avian biologist would establish a buffer area around active nest(s) and would monitor construction activities. The buffer would be established based on construction activities, potential noise disturbance levels, and behavior of the species. A monthly report summarizing all active nest observations and avoidance measures will be provided to the appropriate agencies on a monthly basis, during the nesting season, or until all active nests have been determined to be inactive.
APM BIO-3	Nesting Bird Management Plan – SCE shall develop a Nesting Bird Management Plan with input from CDFW. The plan shall include (1) nest management and avoidance; (2) field approach (survey methodology, reporting, and monitoring), including information related to areas of occupied habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher; and (3) avian biologist qualifications. Avian biologist(s) shall be subject to review and approval by CDFW, and shall be responsible for determining the buffer area around active nest(s). Biological monitors shall monitor nests and construction activities.
APM BIO-4	Avian Safe Design – The 115-kV subtransmission structures would be designed consistent with the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006 (APLIC, 2006).
APM BIO-5	Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and Los Angeles Pocket Mouse Mitigation and Avoidance – An SCE qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys (see APM BIO-1) in suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse at specific work areas along the proposed Project and alternative Project for impact avoidance and minimization. To address impacts to Stephens' kangaroo rat, within the boundaries of the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat HCP, SCE shall apply to participate in the plan through an agreement with the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (Riverside County, 1996). To address impacts to Los Angeles pocket mouse, within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP) Area, SCE shall apply to participate in the WRCMSHCP and shall follow provisions of the WRCMSHCP as they apply to this species. Stephens' kangaroo rat and Los Angeles pocket mouse observations and avoidance measures will be reported to the appropriate wildlife agencies prior to construction in that area. In addition, appropriate agencies will be provided a monthly report summarizing all special status species observations and avoidance measures.
APM BIO-6	Special Status Wildlife and Plant Species Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring – SCE's participation, as a PSE, shall include but is not limited to the following provisions and measures outlined in the WRCMSHCP. This includes avoidance and mitigation measures for species such as Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Burrowing Owl, Quino checkerspot butterfly, riparian bird species, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and special status plants. All CPUC reporting requirements would be conducted as described in APMs BIO-1 and BIO-2.

Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs)

APM	Description
APM BIO-7	<p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher Impact Minimization and Mitigation – Avoidance of active nests shall be accomplished through APMs BIO-2 and BIO-3, described above.</p> <p>In areas of occupied habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, a buffer area around active nest(s) would be established by the SCE biologist and provided to USFWS and CDFW for concurrence. The buffer would be established based on construction activities, potential noise disturbance levels, and behavior of the species.</p> <p>Construction activities in occupied habitat/suitable habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher will be monitored by a qualified biologist.</p> <p>SCE shall apply to participate in the WRCMSHCP and shall follow provisions of the WRCMSHCP as they apply to coastal California gnatcatcher. Where proposed Project design allows, SCE shall avoid or minimize impacts to Diegan and coastal sage scrub vegetation.</p> <p>All reporting requirements would be conducted as described in APMs BIO-1 and BIO-2.</p>
APM BIO-8	<p>Listed Riparian Birds Impact Minimization – Based on current design, SCE shall avoid direct construction impacts to riparian and other wetland habitats suitable for listed riparian bird species (least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher). Avoidance of active nests shall be accomplished through APMs BIO-2 and BIO-3, described above.</p> <p>All reporting requirements would be conducted as described in APMs BIO-1 and BIO-2.</p>
APM BIO-9	<p>Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Impact Minimization and Mitigation – To address impacts to Quino checkerspot butterfly, within the boundaries of the WRCMSHCP Plan Area, SCE shall apply to participate in the WRCMSHCP and shall follow the provisions of the WRCMSHCP as they apply to this species.</p> <p>All reporting requirements would be conducted as described in APMs BIO-1 and BIO-2.</p>
APM BIO-10	<p>Vernal Pool Resources – A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction marking of previously mapped basins suitable to support vernal pool species within the potential proposed Project Impact Corridor and depict them on construction plans with specifications for avoidance. Facts about the vernal pool habitat and potential impacts from construction and O&M activities shall be included in the WEAP materials. Wet season protocol level surveys for special status vernal pool resources will be conducted prior to construction. If special status species are detected, SCE shall follow the provisions of the WRCMSHCP as they apply to these species.</p> <p>All reporting requirements would be conducted as described in APMs BIO-1 and BIO-2.</p>
Cultural Resources	
APM CUL-1	<p>Impacts to sensitive paleontological resources would be reduced with implementation of a Paleontological Resources Management Plan.</p>
Traffic and Transportation	
APM TRA-1	<p>Traffic control or other management plans would be prepared where necessary to minimize proposed Project impacts on local streets, highways (State Route [SR]74 and SR-79), freeways, or other forms of transportation (Class I and Class II bicycle routes).</p>
APM TRA-2	<p>Where the proposed Project work area encroaches on a public ROW and reduces the existing pedestrian path of travel to less than 48 inches wide, alternate pedestrian routing would be provided during construction activities.</p>

(END OF APPENDIX B)