

*Southern California Edison*  
**WODUP A.13-10-020**

**DATA REQUEST SET A.13-10-020 WODUP ED-SCE-01**

**To:** ENERGY DIVISION  
**Prepared by:** Frederick McCollum  
**Title:** Investigations Manager  
**Dated:** 02/21/2014

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**Question F-01 a:**

**Wildland Fire**

**F-1** The project traverses populated landscapes with significant histories of catastrophic wildfire incidence. The PEA Section 4.8 "Environmental Setting" recognizes wildland fire as a hazard but the section does not document the actual fire history associated with the transmission corridor and substations included in the WOD-UP project. To support the required analysis for this project in the EIR/EIS:

- a. Please identify all past fire incidences in the project area where fires were ignited by SCE's electrical equipment or lines.

**Response to Question F-01 a:**

For this response, SCE reviewed reports submitted to the CPUC for the last 10 years to see if there were any fires reported in or near the project area. SCE does not have information on fires in the project area that are not required to be reported. The reporting criteria is as follows:

**Electric Utilities must report, within two hours during working hours and four hours outside of working hours, any incident which results in:**

- Fatality or personal injury rising to the level of in-patient hospitalization;
- Are the subject of significant public attention or media coverage; or,
- Damage to property of the utility or others estimated to exceed \$50,000 and are attributable or allegedly attributable to utility owned facilities.

SCE identified two possible reported incidents that were within two miles of either side of the Project area. These fires were not "caused" by SCE, but it is believed that our facilities were involved in the ignition of the fire.

The first incident concerns an 85 acre brush fire that occurred on July 8, 2009 near the intersection of Jack Rabbit Trail and the 60 Freeway. The Vista-Marachino-San Bernardino 115 kV transmission line relayed and reclosed at 3 PM. The fire is believed to have started at the base of a supporting steel H-frame structure. Based on some minor arcing and pitting marks on the bond wire of the crossarm (timber), it was speculated that a bird faulted the

line, and possibly started the fire. No structures were damage or injuries reported, and no repairs to SCE facilities were needed.

The second incident involved the "Bluff 2 Fire" , a 50 acre wildfire that started on September 17, 2012, near the intersection of Bluff road and Dillon Road in Banning. In this instance, vandals cut copper conductor down in several spans on the Pheasant 12 kV distribution circuit. The fire was extinguished by Cal Fire, Riverside County Fire Dept. and the United States Forest Service (USFS). Beyond the damage to SCE facilities, no structures were damaged or injuries reported.

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**To:** ENERGY DIVISION  
**Prepared by:** Troy Whitman  
**Title:** Fire Management Officer  
**Dated:** 02/21/2014

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**Question F-01 b:**

**Wildland Fire**

**F-1** The project traverses populated landscapes with significant histories of catastrophic wildfire incidence. The PEA Section 4.8 "Environmental Setting" recognizes wildland fire as a hazard but the section does not document the actual fire history associated with the transmission corridor and substations included in the WOD-UP project. To support the required analysis for this project in the EIR/EIS:

- b. Describe whether the WOD-UP project would increase or decrease fire risk related to presence of the transmission lines in the existing corridor, and why.

**Response to Question F-01 b:**

The Proposed Project consists of removal and installation of the same voltage and same number of transmission circuits primarily within the existing WOD corridor. Generally, wildland fire ignitions have not been attributable to a high voltage transmission lines such as those proposed for the WOD project. This is due to the very sensitive relay protection equipment installed on transmission circuits; that is designed to de-energize the line, perform a test, and then lock the line out of service. The other main reason transmission lines have historically operated without incident in fire hazard areas is due to wide conductor spacing, and the fact that they do not utilize any of the overhead apparatus or equipment normally associated with distribution circuits. Transmission lines at these voltages do not utilize transformers, switches, line disconnects, capacitors, or any other equipment that would require weed abatement for fire prevention at the base of the support structures.

Additionally, the OPGW (also known as the skyline) acts a shield wire that is meant to absorb a lightning strike and safely ground the strike, thus inadvertently deterring lightning from striking other features such as trees or other tall structures that could ignite a fire from a strike.

Based on the information included above there would be no change to the fire risk as a result of the Proposed Project.

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**Question F-01 c:**

**Wildland Fire**

**F-1** The project traverses populated landscapes with significant histories of catastrophic wildfire incidence. The PEA Section 4.8 "Environmental Setting" recognizes wildland fire as a hazard but the section does not document the actual fire history associated with the transmission corridor and substations included in the WOD-UP project. To support the required analysis for this project in the EIR/EIS:

- c. Describe any conflicts that exist between the presence of transmission lines and fire suppression efforts (e.g., relationship between presence of energized lines and ground and aerial suppression and crew safety.)

**Response to Question F-01 c:**

Ground and air operations on wildland fires have been conducted safely near SCE transmission lines and rights of way for many years. During wildfire incidents, pilots are supplied with overhead hazard maps, and are regularly briefed on the location of powerlines in and around the areas in which they are operating. When the fire is not in close proximity to the powerlines, ground resources conduct their fire suppression efforts as normal. When fire is in close proximity to powerlines, ground resources are instructed to maintain a distance of 1.5 times the height of the tower away from the line.

The Proposed Project consists of removal and installation of the same voltage and same number of transmission circuits. The Proposed Project would consist of transmission facilities that would be the same general height as those that currently are located in the WOD corridor, therefore fire suppression activities and risks within the corridor would not change as a result of the Proposed Project.

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**Question F-02:**

**Wildland Fire**

**F-2** PEA Table 4.8-3 lists county & city land use regulations identified for fire suppression and coordination.

Please describe how SCE coordinates with county and city jurisdictions to meet their goals in terms of fire risk management and how or whether this may change with installation of higher voltage lines.

**Response to Question F-02:**

SCE's Fire Management Team provides liaisons to all fire agencies within the SCE service territory. This includes wildland fire response, electrical safety for first responders training, hazard mitigation, and prescribed burn coordination.

The Proposed Project consists of removal and installation of the same voltage and same number of transmission circuits primarily within the existing WOD corridor and would not result in a change to how SCE's Fire Management Team currently coordinates with fire agencies.

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**Question F-03 h:**

**Wildland Fire**

- F-3** PEA Section 4.8 mentions “protocols” and SCE’s participation with the Red Flag Fire Prevention Program in the discussion of fire risk impact evaluations.
- h. Please provide specific information of what the Red Flag Fire Prevention Program entails and how SCE implements it, its standard procedures, who is responsible for implementation, and what training is required. The discussion should include SCE’s fire incident history for all lines associated with the project, lessons learned, and enacted procedures for risk reduction and risk mitigation.

**Response to Question F-03 h:**

The Red Flag Fire Prevention Program and how SCE implements it has been addressed in the response to question F-3e. Local SCE management is responsible for implementation of the program. Training is accomplished through SCE's Accident Prevention Manual. The portion of the question related to SCE's fire incident history has been addressed in response to Question No. F-1a.