

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN)
CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY (U 338-E)) A.13-10-XXX
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and)
Necessity for the West of Devers Upgrade Project)
and for an Interim Decision Approving the)
Proposed Transaction between Southern)
California Edison and Morongo Transmission)
LLC)

**PROPONENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA)
IN THE WEST OF DEVERS UPGRADE PROJECT**

VOLUME 2 OF 7

<p>This PEA is being filed separately from the Application and is being submitted as an Archival DVD and CD-ROM</p>

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section examines the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives. The analysis of each resource category begins with an examination of the existing physical setting (baseline conditions as determined pursuant to Section 15125(a) of the CEQA Guidelines) that may be affected by the Proposed Project. The effects of the Proposed Project are defined as changes to the environmental setting that are attributable to project construction and operation.

Significance criteria are identified for each environmental issue area. The significance criteria serve as a benchmark for determining if a project would result in a significant adverse environmental impact when evaluated against the baseline. According to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, a significant effect on the environment means "...a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project..." According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.8 [a-b]), a significant effect on the environment could be either a direct or indirect change to the human environment caused by the action. Evaluating such impacts requires consideration of the temporal scale, spatial extent, and intensity of the change that would be introduced by the Proposed Action and its alternatives (40 CFR 1502.16).

If significant impacts are identified, feasible Mitigation Measures are formulated to eliminate or reduce the level of the impacts and focus on the protection of sensitive resources.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3) states that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant.. In addition, compliance with laws, regulations, ordinances, and standards designed to reduce impacts to less than significant levels are not considered mitigation measures under CEQA. Where potentially adverse impacts may occur, SCE has proposed Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) to minimize the environmental impacts.

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