

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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May 24, 2021

Michael Bass  
Environmental Project Manager  
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2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
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**RE: Valley-Ivyglen 115kV Subtransmission Project (VIG) – Minor Project Refinement No. 13 Request: Notice to Proceed- (NTP-) 2 Supplemental Work Areas at multiple locations throughout Segments VIG5, VIG6, and VIG7 for installation of poles, guy anchors, and conductors**

Dear Mr. Bass,

On April 29, 2021, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted Minor Project Refinement (MPR) No. 13 Request to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for review. The proposed MPR would involve additional work areas and land disturbances that were not included in NTPR-2 but are necessary to construct the Project work described in Section 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1.2, and 2.3.1.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).

The primary activities to be conducted at the proposed work areas would include installation poles, guy anchors, and conductor. Construction of these components would be accomplished in a manner consistent with the descriptions contained in the following VIG FEIR Sections: 2.4.5.4, 115-kV Structure Construction and 2.4.5.6, Wire Stringing. Furthermore, site preparation activities would include vegetation clearing, improvement/construction of work areas, and installation of Stormwater Prevention Plan (SWPPP) best management practices (BMPs).

**Additional Work Areas within General Disturbance Areas:**

The proposed refinements would result in a net increase of 0.009 acres of temporary disturbance and 0.0001 acres of permanent impacts in Segments VIG5–VIG7. The locations, dimensions, and activities for each proposed refinement are provided in Table 1 and are visually shown in the biological resource maps (Attachment A).

**Table 1: VIG5–VIG7 Additionally Requested Work Areas**

Segment	Pole / Feature Name	Nearest Structure	Latitude	Longitude	Description	Activity
VIG5	4765626E	486E	33.72908	-117.39554	50 feet northeast of 486E. Installation of a new wood pole within a previously approved	Installation of a new wood pole, 4765626E.

					work area. 3.14 square feet of permanent disturbance.	
VIG5	4765627E	487E	33.72921	-117.39639	30 feet northwest of 487E. Installation of a new wood pole and guy anchor within a previously approved work area. 3.14 square feet of permanent disturbance.	Installation of a new wood pole, 4765627E, and guy anchor.
VIG5	Guy Anchor	2185E	33.73381	-117.40627	A new guy anchor for the LWSP, 2185E, within a previously approved disturbance area.	Installation of guy anchor for the stability of 2185E.
VIG6	Anchor Site	525E	33.73156	-117.41615	72 feet southwest of 525E. 66 square feet of temporary work area for a new guy anchor northwest of 4765605E	Installation of a guy anchor for the stability of 4765605E.
VIG6	Anchor Site	525E	33.73145	-117.41616	103 feet southwest of 525E. 340 square feet of temporary work area for a new guy anchor southwest of 4765605E	Installation of a guy anchor for the stability of 4765605E.
VIG7	4928124E	536E	33.73838	-117.42917	178 feet southeast of 536E. Installation of a switch on an existing wood pole, 4928124E, located within a previously approved pull site.	Modification of an existing wood pole, 4928124E.

The Valley-Ivyglen Subtransmission Line Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by the CPUC. The CPUC issued a Permit to Construct the Project on April 2, 2013 (Decision 10-08-009). The mitigation measures (MMs) and project commitments (PCs) described in the EIR were adopted by the CPUC as conditions of Project approval. In May 2020 the CPUC adopted the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all PCs and MMs during project implementation.

This letter documents the CPUC’s evaluation of all activities covered in the MPR No. 13 Request. The CPUC has carefully reviewed this MPR request and has verified that the proposed activities adhere to all applicable PCs and MM requirements. The evaluation process ensures that all PCs and MMs applicable to the location, and all activities covered in the MPR are implemented, as required in the CPUC’s decision. The evaluation process further ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The proposed change does not trigger additional discretionary permit requirements that are not defined in the EIR or MMCRP.
- The proposed change does not increase the severity of an impact or create a new impact, based on the thresholds used in the EIR.
- The proposed change is within the geographic scope of the study area utilized in the EIR.
- The proposed change does not conflict with any PC or MM, and the refinements would not result in a new conflict with any applicable guideline, ordinance, code, rule, regulation, order, decision, statute, or policy not already identified within the EIR.

The CPUC has determined that MPR No. 13 meets the above criteria. MPR No. 13 is approved by the CPUC for the proposed activities based on the factors described below.

### **CPUC Evaluation of MPR No. 13 Request**

The CPUC evaluated SCE’s MPR Request No. 13 to verify that they fulfill the requirements of the MMCRP. In accordance with the MMCRP, the CPUC reviewed the request to confirm that

no new impacts on sensitive resources, or increases in impact severity, would result from the requested MPR activities. The following discussion summarizes this analysis for biological, cultural, paleontological, aesthetics and visual resources, as well as other environmental resources.

***Location of Ground Disturbance Areas***

MPR No. 13 activities would occur at several locations, work areas, or portions of work areas, throughout Segments VIG5, VIG6, and VIG7. The locations, dimensions, and activities for each proposed refinement are provided in Table 1 and are visually shown in the biological resource maps (Attachment A). The temporary and permanent disturbance areas associated with MPR No. 13 are shown in Table 2. The quantity and dimensions of MPR No. 13 disturbance areas are consistent with what is described in Table 2-5 of the FEIR. Section 2.4.2.1 of the FEIR, which states that construction of VIG would disturb approximately 633.7 acres of land, including approximately 141.5 acres of permanent disturbance. Total impacts for all VIG NTPRs/MPRs are anticipated to be below the quantities given in the FEIR. If quantities in future NTPRs/MPRs exceed the FEIR, an explanation of significance will be provided.

**Table 2: Requested Disturbances Associated with MPR No. 13**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Number of Miles</b>	<b>Temporary Impact Total</b>	<b>Permanent Impact Total</b>
Temporary Work Areas	--	0.009 ac (406 sq ft)	--
Wood Pole, New	--	--	0.0001 ac (6.28 sq ft)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00 Miles</b>	<b>0.009 ac (406 sq ft)</b>	<b>0.0001 ac (6.28 sq ft)</b>

***Aesthetics/Visual Impacts***

The proposed additional work areas and the work to be conducted are consistent with the descriptions of structures to be installed and disturbances to occur during construction provided in Sections 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1.3, and Table 2-5 of the FEIR.

Aesthetic impacts associated with work under MPR No. 13 would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.1.4.2 of the FEIR. Additionally, all applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

***Biological, Cultural, Paleontological Resources, and other Environmental Resources***

The proposed work areas were included in previous biological surveys for the FEIR, as described in the biological report (Attachment A).

The proposed guy anchor for 2185E is within a mapped riparian area that was included in the Project waters permits for permanent impacts. As staked in the field, the anchor location is outside of riparian vegetation and state/federal waters. The proposed temporary work areas for guy anchor installation near 525E are adjacent to, but do not overlap, an ephemeral drainage. No amendments to the waters permits would be needed.

The proposed guy anchor for 2185E is within area mapped as Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (RAFS) that is permitted for permanent disturbance. The guy anchor area southwest of 4765605E overlaps with coast live oak woodland (CLOW). In accordance with mitigation measure BR-6, an arborist would be present when crews work within the oak tree protected zone.

Following the completion of all construction, the temporary work areas would be restored/reclaimed in accordance with the Project SWPPPs, Project Commitment D<sup>1</sup>, and the VIG Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan (HRRP).

Portions of the proposed work areas in Segment VIG6 are outside of the Western Riverside-Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WR-MSHCP) Phase 2 Certificate of Inclusion (COI) coverage area. Based on the guidance provided by the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), construction of these features would not require notification and approval by the RCA prior to construction because the overall permanent disturbance to baseline vegetation of RCA concern does not exceed the acreage proposed in the MSHCP Participating Special Entity (PSE) application. The work area at 2185E in VIG5 is within MSHCP grasslands of concern. The PSE application included 0.007 acres (314 square feet) of permanent impacts within grasslands of concern (Table 3) at 2185E. Currently proposed permanent impacts would occur within the previously identified permanent impact area and would not change impacts to grasslands of concern (Table 3). No other MPR No. 13 proposed permanent impacts are in areas of baseline vegetation of RCA concern. All temporary impacts to vegetation will be restored in accordance with the HRRP.

Table 3. Permanent Impacts to MSHCP Baseline Grasslands at Poles 2185E

MSHCP PSE Application	0.007 acres
Currently Proposed Impacts (MPR No. 13)	0.00 acres
<b>Change in Grassland Impacts</b>	<b>0.00 acres</b>

MPR No. 13 proposed work areas are covered under the Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) Habitat Conservation Plan. Although 0.005 acres of the proposed refinements are outside of the SKR buffer depicted in the COI, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency has agreed that SCE may reconcile impacted acreage once the Project has reached final design. SCE will be responsible for identifying acreage not previously included in the COI (such as the acreage proposed here) as well as removing acreage that was included in the COI but not disturbed by construction

The activities described in MPR No. 13 would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of an identified impact listed in Section 4.4.4.2 of the FEIR. Indirect impacts that may occur to sensitive species in the vicinity of the proposed work areas would be mitigated in accordance with the Project Commitments and Mitigation Measures. All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

The proposed work areas were surveyed and analyzed in the cultural and paleontological resources addendum reports (Attachments B and C respectively). The survey results indicate that there are no new sensitive archaeological or paleontological resources located at the proposed

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<sup>1</sup> With input from the appropriate resource agencies, the applicant would develop and implement a Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan to restore temporarily impacted areas where construction of the projects would be unable to avoid impacts on native vegetation and sensitive resources, such as wetlands, wetland buffer areas, riparian habitat, and other sensitive natural communities. The applicant would restore all temporarily impacted areas disturbed during construction of the projects, including staging areas and pull, tension, and splicing sites, to as close to preconstruction conditions as possible, or to the conditions agreed upon between the applicant and landowner. Replanting and reseeding would be conducted under the direction of the applicant or contract biologists. If revegetation would occur on private property, revegetation conditions would be part of the agreement between the applicant and the landowner.

work areas. Cultural and tribal monitoring would be conducted in accordance with the Cultural Resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan (CRMTP). Paleontological monitoring, spot checking, and fossil recovery would be implemented for excavations at the proposed work areas in accordance with the Project's Paleontological Resource Monitoring Plan (PRMP). If a resource is found at the site, SCE would comply with the procedures for unanticipated discoveries provided in MMs CR-1b, CR-4, CR-5, CR-7, the CRMTP, and the PRMP. Impacts to cultural resources associated with this refinement would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in the FEIR (Attachment B, Cultural Resources Report and Attachment C, Paleontological Resources Report). All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

MPR No. 13 work activities occurring at the proposed locations and the types of equipment used are consistent with the activities described in Sections 2.3.1.1 and 2.3.1.3 of the FEIR. Implementation of the Project Noise Control Plan would ensure noise reduction measures are performed as required. Blasting activities would not occur at the proposed work areas.

Therefore, impacts to noise and vibration associated with work under MPR No. 13 would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.11.4.2 of the FEIR. Additionally, all applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

Work activities occurring at the proposed locations and the types of equipment used are consistent with the activities described in Sections 2.3.1.1 and 2.3.1.3 of the FEIR. The type and quantity of construction equipment would be the same as identified in NTPR-2; the areas requested would not require the use of additional equipment. In compliance with MM AQ-1, nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and particulate matter (PM) emissions from off-road diesel-powered construction equipment would be minimized to the extent feasible by using Tier 4 interim or Tier 4 Standards for equipment with engines greater than 150 horsepower. Per MM AQ-2, daily emissions of equipment would be tracked to ensure NO<sub>x</sub> emissions stay within the NO<sub>x</sub> Regional Clean Air Incentive Market Trading Credits (RTCs) purchased for the Project.

Impacts to greenhouse gas emissions associated with MPR No. 13 would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.7.4.2 FEIR. All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

Activities occurring at the proposed locations are consistent with the activities described in Sections 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1.2, and 2.3.1.3 of the FEIR. All proposed locations are within the 1,000-foot corridor evaluated for solid waste disposal sites, Cease and Desist Orders, or Cleanup and Abatement orders per Section 4.8.1.1 of the FEIR. Planned ground-disturbing activities include pole and anchor installation. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, SCE would follow the procedures in Project's Contaminated Soil and Groundwater Contingency Plan. Proposed work areas in MPR No. 13 are located within elevated and extreme fire threat areas. Fire danger mitigation would be implemented in accordance with the Project Emergency Action Plan and Fire Control and Emergency Response Plan. Impacts to hazards and hazardous materials associated with this refinement would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.8.4.2 of the

FEIR. All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

The proposed refinements are located within the Santa Ana Watershed and the Elsinore Groundwater Basin. Some of the proposed work areas are located within a flood zone, as shown in Figure 4.9-4 of the FEIR; however, the proposed work is consistent with the work described in sections 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1.2, and 2.3.1.3 of the FEIR and would not alter flood flows.

The proposed work areas are in the vicinity of the Temescal Wash and other ephemeral water bodies. Erosion that could affect water quality would be controlled at locations of earth disturbance through the implementation and adherence to the Project linear SWPPP. If stained or odorous soil is found during excavating, SCE would follow the procedures in Project's Contaminated Soil and Groundwater Contingency Plan. Dewatering, if necessary, would be performed in accordance with the Project linear SWPPP.

Impacts to hydrology and water quality associated with this refinement would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.9.4.2 of the FEIR. All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

Furthermore, the quantity of construction equipment and personnel would be the same as identified in NTPR-2. Adherence to the Project Traffic Management and Control Plan would ensure compliance with traffic-related Project mitigation measures, TT-1, TT-2, and TT-7. There would be no change to the access routes identified in the Traffic Management and Control Plan.

Impacts to transportation and traffic associated with this refinement would not create a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact identified in Section 4.15.4.2 of the FEIR. In addition, all applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in FEIR Chapter 9 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan would be followed.

### ***Permits***

No additional permits or approvals are required for MPR No. 13 activities.

### **MPR No. 13 Conditions of Approval**

MPR No. 13 is approved by the CPUC with conditions. The conditions presented below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

1. All applicable Project MMs, PCs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction, where applicable.
2. Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this MPR, shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
3. SCE shall implement all appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) for the MPR No. 13 additional disturbance areas, in compliance with the SWPPP and as specified by the Qualified SWPPP Practitioner. Sediment and erosion

- control BMPs shall be properly maintained throughout the duration of construction activities.
4. All activities (e.g., stabilizing construction entrance/ ground surface, fence installation, etc.) shall be monitored by CPUC-approved monitors in accordance with the MMCRP, where appropriate.
  5. In the event that MPR No. 13 activities require additional road improvement/ design, or vegetation clearing/ grubbing, SCE shall meet and confer with appropriate agencies and/or local jurisdictions as needed and notify the CPUC for concurrence and approval.
  6. In the event that blasting or fracturing is needed, a blasting plan would be submitted for CPUC review and approval in accordance with MMs WQ-1 and NV-2. Blasting would only be used in areas where subsurface obstructions reasonably preclude excavation using conventional construction equipment
  7. SCE shall ensure that construction equipment at the proposed locations will have adequate and properly placed secondary containment to avoid and minimize potential spills.
  8. The work associated with MPR No. 13 shall occur within approved project workdays and hours. In the event that MPR No. 13 scheduling necessitates work outside of the hours permitted under local noise ordinances, SCE shall meet and confer with the local jurisdictions as needed and notify the CPUC for concurrence.
  9. SCE and its contractors shall adhere to the WR-MSHCP terms and conditions, including but not limited to adherence to the Project Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan, adherence to the SWPPP, performance of preconstruction surveys for burrowing owls, and the use of biological monitors to record compliance with work area boundaries and compliance with the avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs).
  10. All complaints related to MPR No. 13 activities received by SCE shall be logged and reported immediately to the CPUC. This includes complaints relevant to traffic, as well as lighting, noise, vibration, dust, etc. Where feasible, complaints shall be resolved, depending on the nature of the complaint, through construction site or activity modifications. Complaints or disputes that cannot be modified through construction site or activity modifications shall be resolved through the dispute resolution communications processes described in the MMCRP.
  11. Once the Project has reached final design, SCE shall be responsible for identifying acreage not previously included in the COI (such as the acreage proposed in MPR No. 13) as well as removing acreage that was included in the COI but not disturbed by construction activities.
  12. SCE shall notify CPUC after completing MPR No. 13 work activities including use of access roads and temporary work areas, and provide photos of the restored additional work disturbance areas. In addition, in the event that new disturbance is foreseen, for maintenance or other activities, SCE shall notify CPUC for evaluation and approval.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this MPR approval.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kelly  
CPUC Project Manager

cc:

Chuck Cleeves, WSP Compliance Manager

Fernando Guzman, WSP Deputy Compliance Manager

Marcus Obregon, SCE Environmental Project Manager



**Attachment A:  
MPR No. 13 Biological Resources Report**

**Attachment B:**  
**MPR No. 13 Cultural Resources Report**

**Attachment C:**  
**MPR No. 13 Paleontological Resources Report**