

Notice of Exemption**To:**

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Torrance Logistics M55 Anomaly Repairs California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-010-04 Major Amendment No. 1

Project Location: The M55 Anomaly Repairs are located in western Kern County, California, at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. They are situated east of the Temblor Mountain Range near the town of McKittrick, California. Dig Site 01 is located approximately 4 miles north of McKittrick within Section 32, Township 29 South, Range 22 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM) and occurs within the Department of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) administrative boundary of the Cymric Oilfield in the Reward United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle. Dig Site 06 is located approximately 0.75 mile south of McKittrick within the north eastern ¼ of Section 29, Township 30 South, Range 22 East, MDBM on privately owned surface. Dig Site 06 occurs within the DOGGR administrative boundary of the McKittrick Oilfield and within the Reward USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an Amendment to California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit, No. 2081-2019-010-04, which authorizes Torrance Logistics Company LLC to incidentally take San Joaquin antelope squirrel (SJAS), and San Joaquin kit fox, which are listed threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively). The Amendment reduces the amount of time pre-activity surveys results must be reported to CDFW prior to the start of Covered Activities, replaces the temperature requirements for SJAS with measures in a revised SJAS Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan, and allows the forgoing of burrow excavation associated with temporary exclusion fence installation if non-trenched fencing is used.

The proposed M55 Anomaly Repairs include the investigation, excavation, repair, site cleanup, and remediation to two segments of the M-55 pipeline where anomalies have been detected. Project activities are expected to last between 7 and 15 days.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Torrance Logistics Company LLC, Paul Davis, President Western Region, 12851 East 166th Street, Cerritos, California 90703

Exempt Status:

- ☒ Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (c); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080, subdivision (b)(4)
☐ Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Craig Bailey (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Supervisor), 559-243-4014, extension 227

Signature: _____

Julie A. Vance,

Regional Manager, Central Region

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date: _____

12/10/19

DEC 06 2019

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption**California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-010-04****Major Amendment No. 1****Torrance Logistics M55 Anomaly Repairs**

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for "Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency" (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). "Emergency" is defined as "A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services" (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.3).

The proposed Project includes the investigation, excavation, repair, site cleanup, and remediation to two segments of the M-55 pipeline that carries heavy crude oil approximately 17 miles from Kern County to the Torrance refinery in the city of Torrance, California. The 12-inch, M-55 pipeline segments where repairs will be conducted are comprised of partially buried pipeline spanning stream channels. Partially buried pipeline segments are exposed from soil erosion and become vulnerable to accelerated corrosion or coating degradation. Therefore, the repairs to the two segments of the M-55 pipeline are required to avoid potential leaks or spills into the stream.

The pipeline segments will be further exposed using backhoes and hand tools to a depth of five feet, depending on the amount of soil erosion that has occurred within the stream channel. The exposed portions of the pipeline will be sandblasted to further analyze the exposed pipeline. If the analysis of the exposed pipeline determines additional repairs are required, a full steel encirclement sleeve will be fit and welded over the compromised section of pipe using a welding truck. Project activities involve:

- Work Area for Dig Site 01. An area surrounding the actual excavation site of approximately 100 feet long by 40 feet wide will be required to be cleared prior to excavation and repair work. This area shall be hand clipped of all shrub cover, grasses, and other herbaceous vegetation to provide adequate space for excavation, exposure, and possible repair work. The workspace will also house the spoils pile from the excavation area. A total of 4,000 square feet or 0.092 acres of Allscale scrub habitat will be impacted by the required work area.
- Excavation Area for Dig Site 01. Site 01 will require an excavation footprint of approximately 40 feet long by 10 feet wide at an estimated depth of 5 feet. The excavation site will be centered on the pipeline while the spoils dirt will be placed directly adjacent to the excavation pit. The actual excavation pit will be approximately 5 feet wide while the spoils dirt will make up an additional 5 feet reaching the indicated 10-foot width at the excavation site. Both ends of the pit will contain an approximate 2:1 slope at a width of 5 feet.
- Work Area for Dig Site 06. The Work Area will consist of an area 160 feet long by 40 feet wide. This area will also be hand clipped of its shrub cover, grasses, and other herbaceous vegetation to provide adequate space for excavation, exposure, and possible repair work. The workspace will house the spoils pile from the excavation area.

A total of 6,400 square feet or 0.147 acres of Allscale scrub habitat will be impacted by the required work area.

- Excavation Area for Dig Site 06. Site 06 will consist of an area 95 feet long by 10 feet wide and approximately 5 feet deep depending on the amount of soil that has eroded within the ephemeral stream channel since the line was buried. The actual dig will consist of a 5-foot-wide pit, while the spoil dirt from the excavation will require an additional 5 feet of space adjacent to the pit reaching the proposed 10-foot excavation area footprint.

It is estimated that the amount of time from excavation, inspection, and repair to backfill will require no more than 14 days to complete. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-010-04. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; and 4) permanent habitat protection.