CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2020090364

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Project Title: Southern California Edison-San Jacinto Substation Removal Action Workplan

Project Location: South San Jacinto Avenue, South of W. Main Street, San Jacinto, California 92583

County: Riverside

Project Applicant: Southern California Edison

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Removal Action Workplan

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.8

Project Description: The Project involves the excavation of approximately 500 to 650 cubic yards of contaminated soil that exceeds the project specific unrestricted cleanup levels in order to minimize human exposure to arsenic, lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Southern California Edison-San Jacinto Project Site (SCE).
The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) determined remediation of the Project Site was required to address the contaminates in soil at the Project Site. This determination was based upon the findings of the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) which included previous Site Investigations and the selection of the appropriate remedial measures to address the on-site contamination. DTSC approved the RAW, prepared by Eco and Associates dated September 15, 2020 on September 17, 2020.

Background: The Project Site consists of a vacant lot, that was previously occupied by an electrical substation. The lot is approximately 112 feet long by 55 feet wide and encompasses 0.15 acres of semi-level land. The Site is located approximately 160 feet southwest of the intersection of West Main Street and South San Jacinto Avenue, in the City of San Jacinto and does not currently have a formal address. The Site is bordered by a commercial/light industrial property to the south, a vacant lot to the west, a commercial property to the north, and a parking lot and salon to the east. The limits of the property are roughly in line with the existing chain link fence surrounding the former substation.

Groundwater in the Site vicinity is encountered more than 100 feet below ground surface and is inferred to flow to the northwest, coincident with the topographic expression of the region. Given the shallow depth of identified soil impacts and the regional depth to water, groundwater impacts from the Site are not considered a concern.

The Site is owned by the SCE and was previously developed with a 33/5-kV substation that was active from 1927 to late 2014 when it was decommissioned. At that time, the below and above ground equipment (circuit breakers, transformers capacitors, etc.), concrete foundations, and asphalt were removed. Site plans show that prior to decommissioning; much of the electrical equipment was in the northern half of the Site. This included a 4.8-kV switchrack and associated circuit breakers, a 33/4.8-kV transformer bank, a capacitor bank, and a 33-kV switchrack and associated circuit breakers.

In conjunction with the decommissioning of the Site, SCE performed a series of environmental site assessments (ESAs) to evaluate environmental Site conditions and potential impacts from past usage and practices.

A Limited Environmental Site Investigation (LESI) was completed in August 2017. Analysis of shallow soil samples indicated that soil has been impacted by lead, arsenic, and PCBs from historic operation of the former substation. Results of this assessment were consistent with those of the 2014 assessment in that lead and arsenic exceeded screening levels at many locations in the northern half of the Site. However, the concentrations of cadmium reported in the previous assessment were not detected; cadmium was not detected in any of the soil samples analyzed as part of the 2017 assessment.

Concentrations of PCBs in soil samples exceeding California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSLs) were identified in shallow soil in the southeastern portion of the Site. The lateral extent of soil containing concentrations of PCBs were not fully defined due to the presence of the property boundary fence and the building on the adjacent property. Based on

the results of the 2017 Site assessment, approximately 380 cubic yards of soil was estimated to contain concentrations of lead, arsenic, and/or PCBs at concentrations requiring remediation. This estimated volume did not account for any off-Site impacts. The 2017 assessment recommended remedial excavation and off-Site disposal of impacted soil and subsequent sampling to verify that contaminant concentrations have been reduced to acceptable levels for regulatory closure.

To further delineate the arsenic, lead, and PCB impacts to shallow soils, additional investigations were performed in 2018 and 2019 specifically intended to further define the lateral extent of the identified contaminants, first by investigation the soil at the limits of the property line in the areas of the previously identified impacts, and then extending to off-property areas adjacent to identified fence line impacts. The results of the 2018 perimeter sampling confirmed shallow soil at the Site has been impacted by lead, arsenic, and PCBs above the proposed screening levels. These impacts extend to the property line along the north, east and south sides of the property. These perimeter impacts are present in soils at 2 feet. No perimeter impacts were identified at the 5 foot depth. After the perimeter sampling, additional sampling was performed in 2019 on adjacent properties to the north, east, and south of the Site to define the presence and extent of any off-Site impacts. The results of the 2019 off-Site sampling identified shallow soil adjacent to the Site has been impacted by lead, arsenic, and PCBs above the proposed screening levels. These off-Site impacts are present in soils at 0.5 and 2 feet in areas between the Site fence line and existing utility trenches on the east and south sides of the Site. These impacts extend approximately 2 to 3 feet on to the adjacent properties. No impacts were identified at the 5 foot depth.

Project Activities: The project activities described in the RAW involves the remedial excavation and off-Site disposal of approximately 500 to 650 cubic yards of impacted soil and subsequent sampling to verify that contaminant concentrations have been reduced to acceptable levels for regulatory closure to unrestricted levels. The excavated soil will be disposed of off-Site at permitted landfills. The RAW also states that if the remedial action objective cannot be achieved, then the implementation of land use controls may be considered and be coordinated under the oversight of DTSC.

The RAW will be implemented during late 2020 or early 2021 and take approximately 3 weeks to complete field activities. Approximately 25 to 30 truck trips will be required. Specific enforceable environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures will be made a condition of project approval to ensure that impacts to the environment are less than significant. Project measures such as a Health and Safety Plan, Grading Plan, Traffic Control Plan and SCAQMD Rule 1466 permitting will be implemented at the Site.

In the event biological, cultural or historical resources are discovered during project activities, work will be suspended while a qualified biologist, cultural or historical specialist assesses the area and arrangements are made to protect or preserve any resources that are discovered. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance will occur in the location where the remains are found, and the County Coroner will be notified pursuant to Health and Safety Code Chapter 2, Section 7050.5.

An analysis of project activities upon existing environmental conditions indicates that implementation of environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures are enforceable and made a condition of project approval and will ensure that impacts to the environment will be less than significant.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Edison

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: [Class 30, Categorical Exemption Cal. Code Regs,. Title 14, §15330]

1. **Reasons Why Project is Exempt**: The project is a minor action designed to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances.
2. The project will not exceed $1 million in cost.
3. The project does not involve the on-Site use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses; and does not involve the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123.
4. The exceptions pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15300.2 have been addressed as follows:
    a. Cumulative Impact. The project will not result in cumulative impacts because it is designed to be a short-term final remedy that would not lead to a succession of projects of the same type in the same place over time.
    b. Significant Effect. The environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval will prevent unusual circumstances from occurring so that there is

no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

c. Scenic Highways. The project will not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, because it is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
d. Hazardous Waste Sites. The project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
e. Historical Resources. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource at the Site because there are none at the Site.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002646#communityinvolvement

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
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Approver's Signature: _____ Date: 9/17/2020

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
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TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Sep 17 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE