



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Southern California Edison-Replace 1 Deteriorated Pole

Project Number: 11-moja-037/PEPC 38371

Project Description:

Karen Bjurman, Southern California Edison, has applied for a special use permit to replace one of SCE's utility poles in Mojave National Preserve. SCE has performed this work in the past as part of ongoing maintenance of their utility lines. It has identified a deteriorated wooden power pole on SCE's Marl 16kV distribution line, which lies in the Old Dad Mountains and can be accessed by vehicle following existing roads.

The new pole location will be one to three feet from the existing pole, and will be excavated with hand and/or machine augers. The deteriorated pole will be completely dislodged and removed from Mojave National Preserve.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Old Dad Mountains	Section:	Kelso Communications Site
Geo. Marker:		Other:	611457.87E, 3885230.12N

Mitigation(s):

- Special use permit must stipulate the following language and include the referenced attachments: "This permit is subject to submission of a complete Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands (SF-299), attached hereto as Attachment A, and the participation of the permittee in good faith negotiations to enter into a National Park Service Right-of-Way Permit based on the National Park Service Right-of-Way Template, attached hereto as Attachment B, on or before the expiration of this permit."

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.12 Upgrading or adding new overhead utility facilities to existing poles, or replacement poles which do not change existing pole line configurations.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed action. Southern California Edison (SCE) must periodically replace deteriorated wooden utility poles; their crews have performed this action several times in the past along SCE's rights-of-way without incident. No concerns were expressed regarding SCE's proposed work to remove a deteriorated pole at the Kelso Communications Site and install a replacement. The pole lies within a right-of-way originally granted by the Bureau of Land Management. CALA 167149 expired on March 15, 2011; we are not aware of Southern California Edison having applied for an NPS right-of-way permit to replace the expired grant. David Reynolds, the Pacific West Region's rights-of-way program coordinator, has advised the Preserve to include language inserted above as a mitigation, in the special use permit. This would allow

SCE to proceed with the pole replacement work and engage Southern California Edison in the NPS right-of-way permit process.

Reviewers did not identify potentially significant adverse impacts to the natural or cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve. It is concluded that impairment will not result from the proposed activities. A special use permit may be issued to SCE with the mitigation listed above included in the stipulations.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent: Lawrence J. Whelan Date: 8/22/11

NPS Contact: Donna Date: 25 August 2011