



Memo To File

A. Project Information

Park Name: Mojave National Preserve

PEPC Project Number: 103519

Project Title: Updated Special Use Permit for Commercial Vehicles - Southern California Gas Company - Biological Surveys

Project Location:

County, State: San Bernardino, California **District, Section:** Black Canyon Road area, **Other:** 34.908405, -115.422327

County, State: San Bernardino, California **District, Section:** Fenner, **Other:** 34.901802, -115.263591

County, State: San Bernardino, California **District, Section:** Kelso Dunes area, **Other:** 34.861266, -115.828577

Project Leader: Matthew Caire

B. Description of the Current Action (Project Description)

Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) has applied for a special use permit (SUP) to bring commercial vehicles into Mojave National Preserve. These vehicles would be used to transport contractors so that the company can write a biological survey. The survey work is proposed along SoCal Gas' gas pipeline in the preserve. The surveys stand to take place in spots where the company has applied for valve automation projects.

According to the company's SUP application package, up to 4 persons "will conduct a field visit and habitat assessment." The proposed activities are "an observational survey only consisting of biologists visiting each location [3] and recording their observations regarding habitat, wildlife, flora, waterways, and general site condition[s]." The survey will take place via 2 non-OHVs. It will involve visiting the 3 spots listed below and surveying in a 250-foot buffer in all directions at each spot. Sites will be accessed via established roads.

One spot for observations along an access road is surrounded by designated wilderness area. Another spot along the access road is in critical habitat for desert tortoises.

UPDATE (7/19/21): Mojave National Preserve's special use permit coordinator misinterpreted what Southern California Gas Company sent regarding the locations of where surveys stand to take place. The locations of where surveys could take place are 250 feet by 70 feet spaces at 34.901802, -115.263591, 34.908405, -115.422327 and 34.861266, -115.828577 plus 250-foot buffers.

C. Description of Previous Compliance Documentation

Decision Document Name:

Decision Document PEPC ID:

Decision Document Approval Date:

21-moja-089

D. Notes

PEPC ID of existing document is 103004. Above field wouldn't allow for last numeral character to be typed.

E. Conclusion

I certify that the existing NPS NEPA document has been reviewed and there are no substantive differences between the current proposal and its associated environmental impacts and the proposal and impacts as described in the existing NEPA document and associated decision document.

Superintendent: _____ **Date:** _____
Mike Gauthier