

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

CENTRAL REGION
1234 EAST SHAW AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710



AMENDMENT NO. 1
(A Major Amendment)
California Endangered Species Act
Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-043-04
Southern California Gas Company
Line 85 Milepost 75.75/75.94 Pipe Recoat Project in Kern County

INTRODUCTION

On April 29, 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2020-043-04 (ITP) to Southern California Gas Company (Permittee), authorizing take of Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*) and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) (Covered Species) associated with and incidental to the Line 85 Milepost 75.75/75.94 Pipe Recoat Project in Kern County, California (Project). The Project as described in the ITP as originally issued by CDFW includes activities associated with the inspection and repair of the coating of two approximately 50-foot long segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 located at Mile Post (MP) 75.75 and MP 75.94 where anomalies have been identified. In issuing the ITP, CDFW found, among other things, that Permittee's compliance with the Conditions of Approval of the ITP would fully mitigate Project impacts of the taking on the Covered Species and that issuance of the ITP would not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species.

In letter dated June 23, 2021, the Permittee requested changes to the Project to add additional Covered Activities, including mainline valve (MLV) installation at another Work Area location and inline pipeline inspection activities, as well as reduce the footprint of the Work Area east of the California Aqueduct to 95 feet long by 50 feet wide. The MLV installation is needed control gas pressure in Line 85 while performing the other necessary repairs and inline inspection needed to detect anomalies. These changes will add an additional excavation area to access the pipeline for MLV installation, add additional staging and parking areas, add MLV installation, pressure-control fitting (stopple) installation, and a robotic inspection tool launcher/receiver (LR) barrel installation on the pipeline as Covered Activities, and add equipment to be used at the site during construction. The additional MLV Work Area and staging/parking areas will increase the total Project footprint by 0.07 acre, but this will not result in an increase to the impacts to Covered Species habitat because these areas are within an existing disturbed roadway.

This Major Amendment No. 1 (Amendment) makes the following changes to the existing ITP:

First, this Amendment modifies the Project Area to add an additional Work Area located north and west of the two existing inspection and repair locations. The additional Work Area will need to be excavated to fully expose the pipeline for MLV installation.

Second, this Amendment adds activities related to MLV installation and inline pipeline inspection to the Project Description and Covered Activities.

Third, this Amendment adds a Staging Area and a Vehicle Parking Area to the Project Description.

Fourth, this Amendment reduces the footprint of the Work Area east of the California Aqueduct to 95 feet long by 50 feet wide.

Fifth, this Amendment increases the total footprint of the Project by 0.07 acre.

Sixth, this Amendment revises and accordingly replaces Figure 2 of the ITP with Figure 2a to depict the additional Work Area, Staging Area, and a Vehicle Parking Area within the modified Project Area.

AMENDMENT

The ITP is amended as follows (amended language in ***bold italics***; deleted language in ~~strikethrough~~):

1. The section entitled "Project Location" on page 2 of the ITP shall be amended to read as follows:

The Line 85 Milepost 75.75/75.94 Pipe Recoat Project (Project) is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley approximately 5.5 miles east of the town of Taft in Kern County, California (Figure 1). The Project is specifically located on California Department of Water Resources-owned land adjacent to and on both sides of the California Aqueduct near Lake Station Road within the United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map Buena Vista Lake Bed in Township 32 South, Range 24 East, Section 12, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; Latitude 35.158737, Longitude -119.350087, ~~and~~ Latitude 35.157882, Longitude -119.345651, ***and Latitude 35.164858, Longitude -119.349671*** (Figure ~~2~~***2a***).

2. The section entitled "Project Description" on page 2 of the ITP shall be amended to read as follows:

The purpose of the Project is to inspect and repair the coating of two approximately 50-foot long segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 located at Mile Post (MP) 75.75 and MP 75.94 where anomalies have been

identified **and install a mainline valve (MLV) and conduct inline pipeline inspections.**

In order to control gas pressure in Line 85, a MLV will be installed within an existing, disturbed roadway on DWR property north and west of the two inspection and repair locations. An approximately 75-foot-long by 20-foot-wide temporary workspace within existing pipeline right-of-way will be utilized to conduct the work. An approximately 60-foot long by 20-foot wide Staging Area and an approximately 60-foot long by 20-foot wide Vehicle Parking Area will be nearby within an existing roadway. Work will begin by using a hydro excavator or air knife to pothole to the top of the existing pipeline, then excavating an approximately 8-foot deep, 12-foot-wide by 20-foot-long bell hole at the proposed valve location using a rubber-tired backhoe and hand tools. Excavated material will be windrowed alongside the bell hole. Once the excavation has been completed, a segment of existing pipe will be cut, removed, and the cut ends cleaned. A crane will be used to lower a replacement pipe segment that includes the valve into the hole and a short segment of pipe on either side of the valve. These segments will be welded to the existing pipeline according to current engineering standards and tested. After the valve has been installed, the bell hole will be back-filled to approximately 24 inches below ground surface with zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, approximately 13.5 cubic yards. The slurry will be covered to grade using the windrowed soil and recompact to pre-existing conditions. An estimated 50 cubic yards of excess soil will be hauled off-site for disposal. The valve installation will include an approximately 8- to 10-inch diameter stem covered by a traffic-rated, closed lid that will be placed flush with the road surface. MLV installation activities are anticipated to be completed in approximately 15 days.

In order to repair these two segments, two trenches each approximately 50 feet long by six feet wide by six feet deep will be excavated to expose the existing Line 85 for inspection and recoating. Approximately 67 cubic yards of excavated soil will be stockpiled **windrowed** adjacent to each trench within the **an** approximately 150-foot long by 50-foot wide work areas **west of the California Aqueduct and an approximately 95-foot long by 50-foot wide work area east of the California Aqueduct.** Once exposed, **a pressure-control fitting (stopple) and a robotic inspection tool launcher/receiver (LR) barrel will be installed on the exposed pipeline in the excavation west of the California Aqueduct and a temporary pipeline inspection tool charging station on the exposed pipeline in the excavation east of the California Aqueduct. A 26-inch robotic inline inspection tool will be launched through the LR barrel. The inspection tool will travel through the pipeline west and north for approximately 900 feet and**

will return to the LR barrel for recharging. After charging, the tool will leave the LR barrel and travel approximately 1,250 feet east through the pipeline until it arrives at the charging station. After charging, the tool will travel approximately 1,450 feet further to the northeast and then return to the charging station. Once recharged, the tool will return to the LR barrel for extraction. Upon completion of the pipeline inspection, the LR barrel and temporary charging station will be removed. Pipeline inspection activities will be completed in approximately 30 days.

Then, the pipeline segments will be wrapped in plastic containment to sandblast or scrape, using hand tools, the existing coating from the exposed pipe. Containment will remain in place to capture and contain any materials from sandblasting the exposed pipe as well as during recoating.

The pipeline surface will be cleaned of all dirt and debris, inspected visually or with portable phased-array ultrasonic testing, and prepared for recoating. The cleaned pipeline segments will then be recoated with fusion-bonded epoxy using a handheld sprayer or brush to correct the identified pipeline anomalies and eliminate the potential safety risk associated with those anomalies. The new coating will be inspected using a pipe jeep meter, and any imperfections detected will be sandblasted, cleaned, and recoated using the same procedure described above. Following successful coating and inspection, the exposed pipeline segments will be ~~reburied~~ **re-covered** with the ~~stockpiled~~ **windrowed** native soil and the soil will be compacted to pre-Project conditions to the extent feasible. The Project area will then be allowed to revegetate naturally.

In total, the Project will occur within an area of approximately ~~0.3~~ **0.37** acre for the two pipe recoating work areas and the MLV work area (Work Areas), and the Staging and Vehicle Parking Areas. The Project is anticipated to result in approximately ~~0.3~~ **0.37** acre of temporary disturbance. Access to the Project will be from existing dirt roads. Equipment to be used includes: excavators, **backhoes, crane, a skid-steer loader, compactor, water truck, sandblaster, welding truck, hydro excavator or air knife**, pickup trucks, and hand tools.

3. The first and second paragraphs of the section entitled "Impacts on the Taking on Covered Species" on page 3 of the ITP shall be amended to read as follows:

Project activities and their resulting impacts are expected to result in the incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species. The activities described above expected to result in incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species include: clearing; grubbing; removing vegetation; excavating; stockpiling/**windrowing** soil; **cutting pipe; installing valve and other underground inline inspection equipment; welding**; removing existing pipeline coating; installing new

fusion-bonded epoxy pipeline coating; reburying pipeline; compacting soil; **heavy equipment operation**; materials and equipment laydown and storage; transporting construction materials and other Project-related traffic; site recontouring; and other activities described in the Project Description section of this ITP (Covered Activities).

Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species in the form of mortality (“kill”) may occur as a result of Covered Activities such as den or burrow collapse that results in crushing or suffocation of underground individuals during vegetation removal, grubbing, excavation, and compaction; entombment of individuals from deposition of stockpiled material, or spoils over occupied burrows; entrapment and burial within uncovered excavations; crushing by equipment; and vehicle/equipment strikes from Project-related traffic during construction activities. Incidental take of individuals of the Covered Species may also occur from the Covered Activities in the form of pursue, catch, capture of the Covered Species is also expected through the entrapment in trenches and excavations, uncovering Covered Species through the excavation of burrow systems, by corralling Covered Species into a confined area when barrier fencing is constructed around the Project Area, and when individuals of the Covered Species are relocated out of harm's way as required by this ITP. The areas where authorized take of the Covered Species is expected to occur are the two pipeline coating repair Work Areas, **the MLV Work Area, the Staging Area, the Vehicle Parking Area**, and access roads (collectively, the Project Area). **The Work Areas are defined as the discrete zones within the Project Area where Covered Activities will actively occur.**

4. The section entitled “Attachments” on page 22 of the ITP shall be amended to read:

FIGURE 1	Project Location Regional Map
FIGURE 22a	Project Location Detailed Map
ATTACHMENT 1	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The corresponding measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (Attachment 1 of the ITP) shall be amended to read the same as above. All terms and conditions of the ITP and MMRP that are not expressly amended herein remain in effect and must be implemented and adhered to by the Permittee.

FINDINGS

Issuance of this Amendment may increase the amount of take of the Covered Species compared to the Project as originally approved; however, because the increase in Project Area is within an area that is a previously disturbed roadway, it is not expected

that this Amendment will increase Project impacts on these species (i.e., “impacts of taking” as used in Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subd. (b)(2)).

Discussion: This Amendment makes six specific changes to the ITP as originally issued: 1) this Amendment modifies the Project Area to add an additional Work Area located north and west of the two existing inspection and repair locations that will need to be excavated to fully expose the pipeline for MLV installation; 2) this Amendment adds activities related to MLV installation and inline pipeline inspection to the Project Description and Covered Activities; 3) this Amendment adds a Staging Area and a Vehicle Parking Area to the Project Description; 4) this Amendment reduces the footprint of the Work Area east of the California Aqueduct to 95 feet long by 50 feet wide; 5) this Amendment increases the total footprint of the Project by 0.07 acre; and 6) this Amendment revises and accordingly replaces Figure 2 of the ITP with Figure 2a to depict the additional Work Area, Staging Area, and a Vehicle Parking Area within the modified Project Area.

CDFW has determined that although this Amendment may result in an increase in take of the Covered Species, the additional impacts of the taking will be minimized and fully mitigated through implementation of the Conditions of Approval. Because the impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated, there will be no increase in Project impacts to the Covered Species with this Amendment.

Issuance of this Amendment does not affect CDFW’s previous determination that issuance of the ITP meets and is otherwise consistent with the permitting criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c).

Discussion: CDFW determined in April 2021 that the Project, as approved, met the standards for issuance of an ITP under CESA. This determination included findings that, among other things, the impacts of the taking would be minimized and fully mitigated and that the Project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species. Those findings are unchanged with respect to this Amendment because the Project and ITP, as amended: (1) does not result in an increase the impacts to the Covered Species habitat because this area is within an existing disturbed roadway; and (2) does not alter the Permittee’s continued adherence to and implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures set forth in the ITP’s Conditions of Approval and MMRP will minimize and fully mitigate impacts of the taking on the Covered Species.

None of the factors that would trigger the need for subsequent or supplemental environmental analysis of the Project under Public Resources Code section 21166 or California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15162 and 15163, exist as a result of this Amendment.

Discussion: CDFW issued the ITP in April 2021 as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). CDFW has determined that this Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA because it is an action “necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” (Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4).) and “necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare, including those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15269, subd. (b)). As a result, CDFW finds that no additional subsequent or supplemental environmental review is required by CEQA as part of CDFW’s approval of this Amendment.

CDFW finds that this Amendment is a Major Amendment, as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c)(5).

Discussion: This Amendment adds an additional Work Area for MLV installation, adds a material and equipment Staging Area, and adds a Vehicle Parking Area to the Project Area, adds activities related to MLV installation and inline inspection activities to the Project Description and Covered Activities, and increases the total footprint of the proposed Project by 0.07 acre.

As described above, these changes to the ITP will increase the Project Area and Footprint by adding a new Work Area, Staging Area, and Vehicle Parking Area where Covered Activities will occur, and adds additional Covered Activities. Therefore, this Amendment will substantially increase the scope or nature of the permitted Project or activity, or significantly modify the minimization, mitigation, or monitoring measures in the ITP. CDFW has determined that the changes to the ITP constitutes a Major Amendment as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.6, subdivision (c)(5).

The authorization provided by this Amendment is not valid until Permittee signs and dates the acknowledgement below, and returns one of the duplicate originals of this Amendment by registered first class mail to CDFW at:

Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attention: CESA Permitting Program
Post Office Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

Alternatively, the Permittee shall e-mail the digitally signed ITP to CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code section 16.5.

Major Amendment No. 1
Incidental Take Permit 2081-2020-043-04
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
LINE 85 MILEPOST 75.75/75.94 PIPE RECOAT PROJECT

Attachments:

ATTACHMENT A1-1 Figure 2a Project Location Detailed Map

APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

on 7/27/2021

DocuSigned by:
Gerald Hatler
-37BF80A1646F41C...

for Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager
CENTRAL REGION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned: (1) warrants that he or she is acting as a duly authorized representative of the Permittee, (2) acknowledges receipt of the original ITP and this Amendment, and (3) agrees on behalf of the Permittee to comply with all terms and conditions of the ITP as amended.

By:  Ileana Figueroa
FF798CC0AF9C4AA...

Date: 7/29/2021

Printed Name: Ileana Figueroa

Title: Project Manager

ATTACHMENT A1-1

Figure 2a Project Location Detailed Map

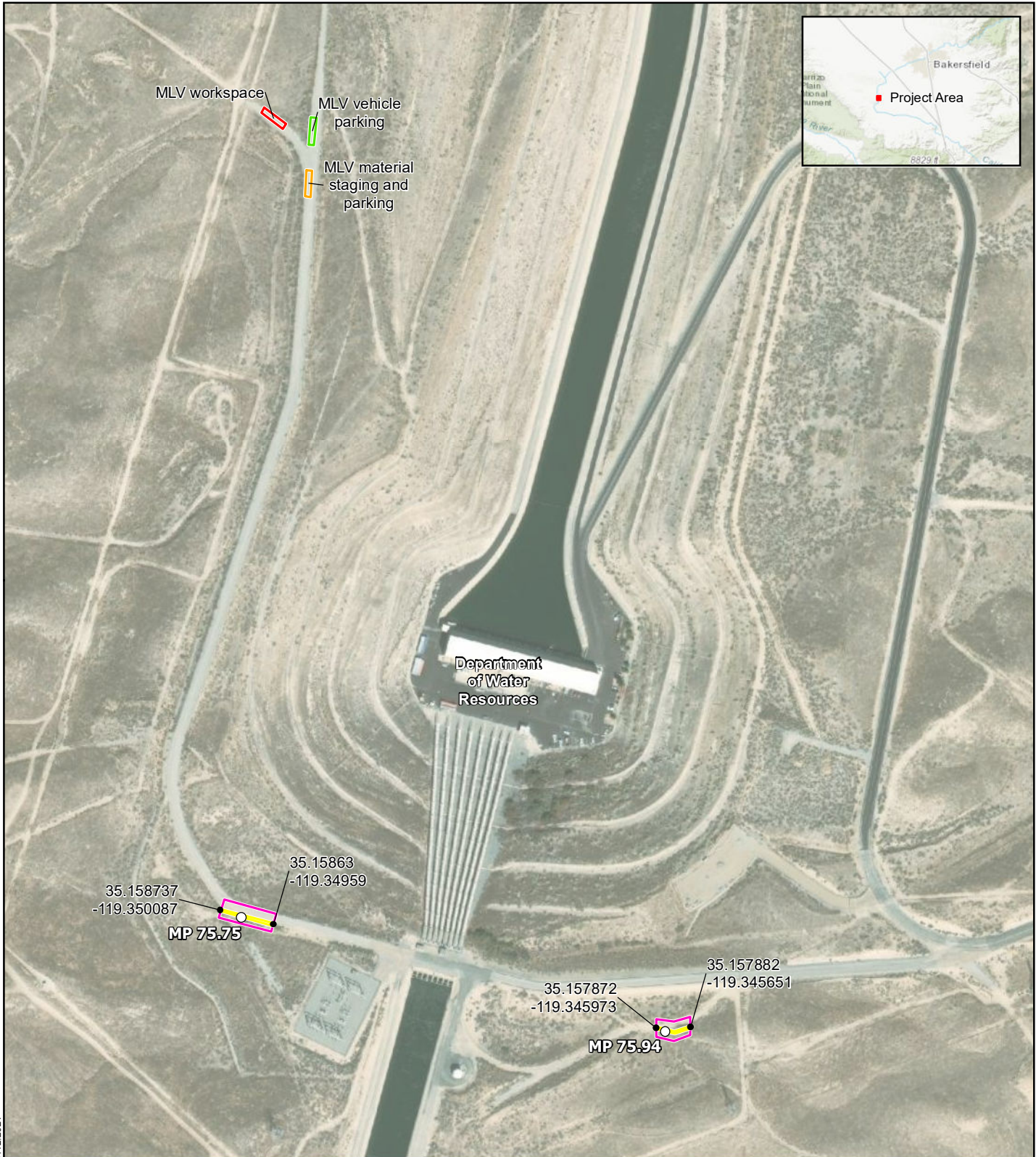
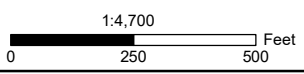


Figure 2a: Project Location Detailed Map

eTS 40392 Line 85 Milepost 75.75 and 75.94 Pipe Recoat, In-Line Inspection, and Mainline Valve Installation Project

- Project milepost (MP)
- ▭ Proposed construction footprint
- ▭ Proposed 6' wide trench
- ▭ Mainline valve (MLV) material staging and parking
- ▭ MLV vehicle parking
- ▭ MLV workspace



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