



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Central Region  
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Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



October 12, 2021

Ileana Figueroa, Project Manager  
Southern California Gas Company  
9400 Oakdale Avenue, SC9314  
Chatsworth, California 91311

**Subject: Incidental Take Permit Amendment No. 2 for the Line 85 Milepost 75.75/75.94  
Pipe Recoat Project (2081-2020-043-04)**

Dear Ms. Figueroa:

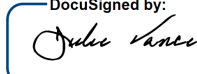
Enclosed you will find an electronic copy of Amendment No. 2 for the incidental take permit for the above referenced Project, which has been digitally signed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Please read the amendment carefully, sign the acknowledgement, and return the original **no later than 30 days from CDFW signature**, and prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities. You may return a hard copy of the amendment via mail to:

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

Alternatively, you may return an electronic copy of the permit with digital signature to [CESA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CESA@wildlife.ca.gov). Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code section 16.5.

You are advised to keep the amendment in a secure location and distribute copies to appropriate project staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of approval of the permit. Note that you are required to comply with certain conditions of approval prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities. Additionally, a copy of the permit and amendments must be maintained at the project work site and made available for inspection by CDFW staff when requested.

The amendment will not take effect until the signed acknowledgement is received by CDFW. If you wish to discuss these instructions or have questions regarding the amendment, please contact Craig Bailey, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at [craig.bailey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:craig.bailey@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,  
DocuSigned by:  
  
FA83F09FE08945A...

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager  
Central Region  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Enclosure

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

CENTRAL REGION

1234 EAST SHAW AVENUE

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710



**AMENDMENT NO. 2**

(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 nitratoideus nitratoideus*) 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 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.

On June 23, 2021, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a major amendment to the ITP and the corresponding fee payment on July 21, 2021. The request included additional Covered Activities, mainline valve (MLV) installation at an additional Work Area location and inline pipeline inspection activities, as well as a reduction to the Work Area footprint east of the California Aqueduct to 95 feet long by 50 feet wide. The additional Work Area and staging/parking areas increased the total Project footprint by 0.07 acre but did not increase the impacts to Covered Species habitat because the additional areas were within an existing disturbed roadway. CDFW issued Major Amendment No. 1 on July 27, 2021.

In issuing the ITP and Major Amendment No. 1 (collectively the ITP, as amended), CDFW found, among other things, that Permittee's compliance with the Conditions of Approval would fully mitigate impacts to the Covered Species and would not jeopardize the continued existence of the Covered Species.

On September 22, 2021, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a major amendment to the ITP, as amended, and the corresponding fee payment on September 28, 2021. The request includes extending the expiration date of the ITP from

October 31, 2021, to March 31, 2022, in order to be able to complete the project, and expanding the MP 75.94 Work Area. This Work Area will extend approximately 105 feet west of the original location based on the need for additional work area and improved access to the pipe for the construction and engineering teams. This change will increase the total Project footprint by 0.13 acre. The trenches within both Work Areas will also be expanded to dimensions of 60-feet long by 10-feet wide by 12-feet deep. Finally, the pipe segments will be re-covered with 18 inches of zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, then with windrowed native soil once repairs are complete. Because pre-Project ITP requirements including installation of exclusion fencing, Covered Species relocation, and burrow excavation have already occurred within the original Work Area footprint, this change will result in an increase in impacts to Covered Species habitat of 0.13 acre.

This Major Amendment No. 2 (Amendment) makes the following changes to the ITP, as amended:

First, this Amendment extends the expiration date of the ITP, as amended, from October 31, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Second, this Amendment expands the size of the MP 75.94 Work Area located east of the California Aqueduct.

Third, this Amendment increases the size of the excavation areas at both inspection and repair locations.

Fourth, this Amendment adds that zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, will be used to re-cover approximately 18 inches above the top of exposed pipeline followed by native soil.

Fifth, this Amendment adds that approximately 120 cubic yards of excess soil will be hauled off site for disposal.

Sixth, this Amendment increases the total footprint of the Project and impacts to Covered Species habitat by 0.13 acre.

Seventh, this Amendment increases the amount of Covered Species Credits required to be deducted from its balance of conservation credits from the Coles Levee Ecosystem Preserve (CLEP).

Eighth, this Amendment revises and accordingly replaces Figure 2a of the ITP with Figure 2b to depict the new Work Area configuration at MP 75.94 within the modified Project Area.

## AMENDMENT

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

1. The paragraph entitled “Effective Date and Expiration Date of this ITP, on page 1 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

This ITP shall be executed in duplicate original form and shall become effective once a duplicate original is acknowledged by signature of the Permittee on the last page of this ITP and returned to CDFW’s Habitat Conservation Planning Branch at the address listed in the Notices section of this ITP. Unless renewed by CDFW, this ITP’s authorization to take the Covered Species shall expire on ~~October 31, 2021~~ ***March 31, 2022***.

2. The section entitled “Project Location” on page 2 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further 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, Latitude ~~35.157882~~ ***35.157958***, Longitude ~~-119.345651-~~ ***119.34632***, and Latitude 35.164858, Longitude -119.349671 (Figure ~~2a~~ ***2b***).

3. The third paragraph of the section entitled “Project Description” on page 2 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

In order to repair these two segments, two trenches each approximately ~~50~~ ***60*** feet long by ~~six~~ ***ten*** feet wide by ~~six~~ ***twelve*** feet deep will be excavated to expose the existing Line 85 for inspection and recoating. Approximately ~~67~~ ***266*** cubic yards of excavated soil will be windrowed adjacent to each trench within an approximately 150-foot long by 50-foot wide work area west of the California Aqueduct and an approximately ~~95~~ ***200***-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.

4. The fifth and sixth paragraph of the section entitled "Project Description" on pages 2 and 3 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

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 re-covered with **the zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, to approximately 18 inches above the top of the existing pipe, then with the** windrowed native soil and the soil will be compacted to pre-Project conditions to the extent feasible. **An estimated 60 cubic yards of excess soil will be hauled off-site for disposal from each location, for a total of 120 cubic yards.** The Project area will then be allowed to revegetate naturally.

In total, the Project will occur within an area of approximately ~~0.37~~**0.5** 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 ~~0.37~~**0.5** acre of temporary disturbance. Access to the Project will be from existing dirt roads. Equipment to be used includes: excavators, backhoes, crane **or reach lift**, a skid-steer loader, compactor, water truck, sandblaster, welding truck, **cement trucks, dump trucks**, hydro excavator or air knife, pickup trucks, and hand tools.

5. The third paragraph of the section entitled "Impacts on the Taking on Covered Species" on pages 3 and 4 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

The Project is expected to cause the temporary loss of ~~0.3~~**0.43** acre of habitat for Tipton kangaroo rat and San Joaquin antelope squirrel. Impacts of the authorized taking also include adverse impacts to the Covered Species related to temporal losses, increased habitat fragmentation and edge effects, and the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (indirect impacts). These impacts include: stress resulting from noise and vibrations from ground disturbance, equipment operation, and traffic; stress resulting from capture and relocation; increased exposure or stress from disorientation; introduction or spread of invasive species; and long-term effects due to displacement from preferred habitat, loss of foraging habitat, changes in drainage patterns that favor different vegetative growth, increased pollution, increased competition for food and space, loss of burrowing habitat used for shelter, reproduction, and escape cover, and increased vulnerability to disease and predation. Individuals displaced due to habitat loss and degradation may be unable to survive in adjacent areas if these areas are at carrying capacity or are unsuitable for colonization. Authorized take of the Covered Species is expected to occur throughout the entire Project Area.

6. Condition of Approval 7.1 (Covered Species Credits) of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

7.1 Covered Species Credits. Prior to initiating Covered Activities, the Permittee shall (1) assign ~~0.6~~**0.86** acre of Covered Species credits from CLEP, and (2) provide CDFW with a copy of the mitigation or conservation credit certificate issued by CLEP and a credit ledger or similar document from CLEP verifying credits have been assigned to this Project. A copy of the credit certificate shall be kept at the Project Area while conducting Covered Activities.

7. The section entitled "Attachments" on page 22 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

FIGURE 1	Project Location Regional Map
FIGURE <del>2a</del> <b>2b</b>	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, as amended) shall be further 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 HM lands protection and management funding requirements will be commensurately increased, 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 eight specific changes to the ITP, as amended: 1) extends the expiration date of the ITP, as amended, from October 31, 2021, to March 31, 2022; 2) expands the size of the MP 75.94 Work Area located east of the California Aqueduct; 3) increases the size of the excavation areas at both inspection and repair locations; 4) adds that zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, will be used to re-cover approximately 18 inches above the top of exposed pipeline followed by native soil; 5) adds that an estimated 120 cubic yards of excess soil will need to be hauled off-site for disposal; 6) increases the total footprint of the Project and impacts to Covered Species habitat by 0.13 acre; 7) increases the amount of Covered Species Credits required; and 8) revises and accordingly replaces Figure 2a of the ITP with Figure 2b to depict the new Work Area configuration at MP 75.94 within the modified Project Area.

CDFW has determined that although this Amendment may result in an increase in take of the Covered Species, and increased Covered Species Habitat impacts, 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 and in July 2021 that Amendment No. 1 to the ITP 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) will increase the habitat compensation in proportion to the increase in impacts so that the fully mitigate standard is still met and (2) does not alter the Permittee’s continued adherence to and implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures set forth in the Conditions of Approval in the ITP, as amended, 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 and Major Amendment No. 1 in July 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 extends the expiration date of the ITP by 5 months, expands the size of the MP 75.94 Work Area located east of the California Aqueduct, increases the size of the excavation areas at both inspection and repair locations, adds that zero-sack slurry or wet sand will be used to re-cover approximately 18 inches above the top of exposed pipeline followed by native soil, adds that an estimated 120 cubic yards of excess soil will need to be hauled off-site for disposal, increases the total footprint of the Project and impacts to Covered Species habitat by 0.13 acre, and increases the amount of Covered Species Credits required.

As described above, these changes to the ITP, as amended, will increase the Project Area and Footprint by expanding the Work Area located on the east side of the California Aqueduct where Covered Activities will occur and increasing the temporary impacts to the Covered Species habitat. 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, as amended. CDFW has determined that the changes to the ITP, as amended, constitute 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:

Major Amendment No. 2  
Incidental Take Permit 2081-2020-043-04  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**  
**LINE 85 MILEPOST 75.75/75.94 PIPE RECOAT PROJECT**

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

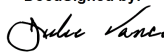
Alternatively, the Permittee shall e-mail the digitally signed ITP to  
CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code  
section 16.5.

**Attachments:**

ATTACHMENT A2-1      Figure 2b      Project Location Detailed Map

**APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

on 10/12/2021

DocuSigned by:  
  
FA83F09FE08945A...

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.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/13/2021

Printed Name: Ileana Figueroa Title: Project Manager

Major Amendment No. 2  
Incidental Take Permit 2081-2020-043-04  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**  
**LINE 85 MILEPOST 75.75/75.94 PIPE RECOAT PROJECT**

ATTACHMENT A2-1

Figure 2b. Project Location Detailed Map



**Figure 2b: 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 10' wide trench
- ▭ Mainline valve (MLV) material staging and parking
- ▭ MLV vehicle parking
- ▭ MLV workspace
- ▭ Previously approved construction footprint (will still be used during Project construction)

1:4,700  
0 250 500 Feet

