



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
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Fresno, California 93710
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



May 30, 2023

Erika Esparza, Project Manager
Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street, MLGT16G3
Los Angeles, California 90013

Subject: Incidental Take Permit Amendment No. 2 for Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project (2081-2021-007-04)

Dear Erika Esparza:

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 amendment with digital signature to CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code section 16.5. Digital signatures facilitated by CDFW will be automatically returned.

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 Sarah Bahm, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at sarah.bahm@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A stylized signature of Julie A. Vance in blue ink.
FA83F09FE08945A...

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

Enclosure

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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. 2081-2021-007-04

Southern California Gas Company

Gas Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project in Kern County

INTRODUCTION

On July 15, 2022, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2021-007-04 (ITP) to Southern California Gas Company (Permittee), authorizing take of giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoide nitratoide*), and San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) (collectively, the Covered Species) associated with and incidental to the Gas Pipeline Recoat and Anode Install Project (Project). The Project as described in the ITP as originally issued by CDFW includes repair of two approximately 50-foot sections of high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent pipeline failure at two separate Work Sites, eTS 43141 Line 225 MP 3.28 (L225 Site) and eTS 44051 Line 85 MP 49.9 (L85 Site). The Project also includes the installation of anodes at these Work Sites to provide cathodic protection of the pipelines. 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 January 24, 2023, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a minor amendment to the ITP and the corresponding fee payment on January 27, 2023. The request included updating the Permittee's Contact Person and extending the expiration date of the ITP from January 31, 2023 to July 31, 2023 because the Project was delayed by Gas Control Outage Coordination (GCOC) as it could impact customers during months with high demand. CDFW issued Minor Amendment No. 1 on February 22, 2023.

In issuing the ITP and Minor 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 May 5, 2023, CDFW received a request from the Permittee for a major amendment to the ITP, as amended, and the corresponding fee payment on May 12, 2023. The request includes expanding the Work Area at the L225 Site to allow for replacement of

an approximately 150-foot segment of pipeline and increasing the size of the staging/laydown area surrounding the larger excavation area. Upon exposure of a 50-foot segment of pipe for inspection and repair at this location, it was determined the current condition of the pipe segment has approximately 40% wall loss deterioration in sections and an immediate replacement of a segment of approximately 150 feet of L225 is needed. In addition to an expanded L225 footprint, the Permittee requested to add a number of construction activities to the Project Description, equipment, and Covered Activities associated with pipe repair and replacement. Permittee is also requesting to update the Principal Officer and extend the ITP expiration date by another six months because work at the L85 Site has been delayed while awaiting federal Endangered Species Act permitting.

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

First, Amendment No. 2 updates the Permittee's Contact Person on the ITP, as amended.

Second, Amendment No. 2 extends the expiration date of the ITP, as amended, from July 31, 2023, to January 31, 2024.

Third, Amendment No. 2 increases the size of the L225 excavation area and total footprint of the workspace and staging/laydown area surrounding the excavation.

Fourth, Amendment No. 2 adds that the existing pipeline will be isolated and cross-compressed by installing two bypass stopple fittings and approximately 200-foot pipe bypass.

Fifth, Amendment No. 2 adds options for pipeline repair or replacement, depending on severity, if inspection detects anomalies.

Sixth, Amendment No. 2 adds that up to two coats of fusion-bonded epoxy or similar material will be used to recoat the pipeline.

Sixth, Amendment No. 2 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 or imported soil.

Seventh, Amendment No. 2 adds that excess soil will be hauled off site for disposal.

Eighth, Amendment No. 2 adds a crane, welding truck, two baker tanks, and two side booms to the equipment to be used.

Ninth, Amendment No. 2 adds cutting pipeline section, repairing or replacing pipeline section, cross-compression, and welding to the Covered Activities list.

Tenth, Amendment No. 2 increases the total footprint of the Project by 1.996 acres and increases impacts to Covered Species habitat by 1.842 acres.

Eleventh, Amendment No. 2 increases the total amount of Covered Species Credits required to be purchased or acres required for permanent protection and management of Habitat Management (HM) lands.

Twelfth, Amendment No. 2 revises and accordingly replaces Figure 3 of the ITP with Figure 3a to depict the expanded L225 workspace within the modified Project Area.

AMENDMENT

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

1. The Principal Officer on page 1 of the ITP, as amended shall be further amended as follows:

Principal Officer: ~~Jae S. Yi~~*Erika Esparza*, Project Manager

2. 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 ~~July 31, 2023~~ ***January 31, 2024***.

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

The purpose of the Project is to repair ***or replace*** two ~~approximately 50-foot~~ sections of high-pressure gas pipeline to prevent pipeline failure. Additionally, installation of anodes will provide cathodic protection of the pipelines. The two Work Sites included in the Project are eTS 43141 Line 225 MP 3.28 (L225 Site) and eTS 44051 Line 85 MP 49.9 (L85 Site) (Figure 1).

Prior to excavation activities, approximately three to four potholes will be dug by hand to identify the location of the pipeline. Excavation of ~~an~~ ***up to*** approximately

~~70~~**190**-foot long by ~~45~~**40**-foot wide and approximately ~~ten~~**15**-foot deep trench will be required to expose the underground gas line. Approximately ~~389~~**4,360** cubic yards of excavated soil (spoils) will be stockpiled adjacent to the trench within the designated staging area (Figure 2 and Figure 3a). Once exposed, the pipeline will be abated, removing asbestos-containing material- **and** the pipeline surface will be cleaned of dirt and debris ~~and to~~ prepare the surface for recoating.

Once cleaned of all coating, dirt, and debris, the integrity of the pipe will be inspected both visually and using wave and b-scan inspection equipment, portable phased-array ultrasonic testing, and/or portable hand and pipe latching equipment. If anomalies are detected during inspection, they must be immediately remedied by repairs or replacements. Depending on the severity, minor anomalies may be remedied by installing soft padding around the affected area using hand tools. Moderate anomalies that cannot be remedied via soft padding will be remediated by installing a patch called a wedding band around the anomaly. This repair entails a metal sleeve of greater thickness but the same diameter and grade as the existing pipe being placed over the anomaly and welded into place. If severe anomalies are detected, the section of pipeline may need to be replaced which entails the affected pipe segment being cut and removed from the trench and a replacement segment of the same grade and thickness welded into place. Replacement will require that the pipeline is isolated and cross-compressed to remove gas from the replacement segment and temporarily allow for continued natural gas transmission around the replacement section with a 200-foot pipe bypass and installation of two bypass stopple fittings. All field welding will be performed by qualified welders in accordance with the American Petroleum Institute Standard 1104 (Welding Pipe Lines and Related Facilities) and Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The exposed pipeline segment will then be recoated with ***up to two coats of*** fusion-bonded epoxy or similar material. Next, approximately four (4) interference anodes will be installed adjacent to the pipeline. The anodes will be attached to the pipe via three #8 wires and connected to a Fink Head Test Station, a small metal-plated terminal used for monitoring electric currents and potential, or similar equipment. The trench will then be backfilled ***with zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, to approximately 18 inches above the top of the existing pipe, then*** with either the native excavated spoils or clean fill as needed, returning the temporary disturbance area to pre-project condition. ***Excess soil may be hauled off site for disposal at an approved facility.***

The L85 site includes an approximately 50-foot section of 26-inch diameter high-pressure gas line, with a staging/laydown area of approximately 9,930 square feet surrounding the approximately 1,050 square foot excavation area. The

staging/laydown area and excavation area make up the 10,980 square foot (0.253 acre) work area (Figure 2). Minor vegetation trimming/removal may occur in the disturbance area. The site will be accessed via existing paved and dirt roads which are not expected to require grading or improvements.

The L225 site includes an approximately ~~50~~**190**-foot section of 34-inch diameter high-pressure gas line, with a staging/laydown area of approximately ~~7,650~~**88,033** square feet surrounding the approximately ~~1,050~~**7,600** square foot excavation area. The staging/laydown area and excavation area make up the ~~8,700~~**95,633** square foot (~~0.198~~**2.195** acres) work area (Figure ~~33a~~**33a**). The site will be accessed via existing paved and dirt roads which are not expected to require grading or improvements.

The Project will occur within an area of approximately ~~0.451~~**2.448** acres for the two pipeline work areas (Work Areas), **of which 0.308 acre is disturbed/developed (existing unvegetated, compacted dirt roads) and 2.14 acres is valley saltbush scrub/non-native grassland.** The Project is anticipated to result in ~~0.451~~ acre of temporary disturbance. Project activities **at each Work Area** are anticipated to take approximately ~~1.5~~**3** months to complete. Equipment for the Project is anticipated to include a tracked excavator, loader, water truck, reach lift/forklift, **crane, welding truck**, towable air compressor, portable restrooms, job site containers/trailers (as needed), **two baker tanks, two side booms**, and approximately six (6) work trucks.

4. The first paragraph of the section entitled "Impacts of the Taking on Covered Species" on page 3 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further 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 soil; cleaning and removing existing pipeline coating; **cutting pipeline section; repairing or replacing pipeline section; cross-compression; welding;** installing new fusion-bonded epoxy coating or similar material; installation of interference anodes; reburying pipeline; compacting soil; 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).

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

The Project is expected to cause the temporary loss of ~~0.451~~**2.14** acres of habitat for the Covered Species. 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. The third paragraph of Condition of Approval 6 (Habitat Management Land Acquisition) on page 20 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

To meet this requirement, the Permittee shall either purchase **a total of 0.7145.07** acres of Covered Species credits ~~(including 0.496 acres of credit for giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin antelope squirrel and 0.217 acres of credit for Tipton kangaroo rat)~~ from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank pursuant to Condition of Approval 6.2 below OR shall provide for both the permanent protection and management of **0.7145.07** acres of Habitat Management (HM) lands ~~(including 0.496 acres of credit for giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin antelope squirrel and 0.217 acres of credit for Tipton kangaroo rat)~~ pursuant to Condition of Approval 6.3 below and the calculation and deposit of the management funds pursuant to Condition of Approval 6.4 below. Purchase of Covered Species credits OR permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting Covered Activities, or within 18 months of the effective date of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 7 below for all uncompleted obligations.

7. Condition of Approval 6.2 (Covered Species Credits) on page 21 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

Covered Species Credits. If the Permittee elects to purchase Covered Species credits to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then Permittee shall purchase **0.7145.07** acres of Covered Species credits ~~(including 0.496 acres of credit for giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin antelope squirrel and 0.217 acres of~~

~~credit for Tipton kangaroo rat~~) from a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank prior to initiating Covered Activities, or no later than 18 months from the issuance of this ITP if Security is provided pursuant to Condition of Approval 7 below. Prior to purchase of Covered Species credits, Permittee shall obtain CDFW approval to ensure the mitigation or conservation bank is appropriate to compensate for the impacts of the Project. Permittee shall submit to CDFW a copy of the Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt prior to initiating Covered Activities or within 18 months from issuance of this ITP if Security is provided.

8. The section entitled "Attachments" on page 30 of the ITP, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

FIGURE 1	Regional Location
FIGURE 2	L85 Site Location
FIGURE 3 3a	L225 Site Location
ATTACHMENT 1	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
ATTACHMENT 2	Biologist Resume Form
ATTACHMENT 3	Letter of Credit Form
ATTACHMENT 4	Mitigation Payment Transmittal Form

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, as amended, 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 the following twelve specific changes to the ITP: 1) update the Permittee's Contact Person; extend the expiration date to January 31, 2024; 2) increase the size of the L225 excavation area and total footprint of the workspace and staging/laydown area; 3) add that the existing pipeline will be isolated and cross-compressed by installing two bypass stopple fittings and approximately 200-foot pipe bypass; 4) add options for pipeline repair or replacement, depending on severity, if inspection detects anomalies; 5) add that up to two coats of fusion-bonded epoxy or similar material will be used to recoat the pipeline; 6) add that zero-sack slurry, or wet sand, will be used to re-cover 18 inches above the exposed pipe followed by soil;

7) add that excess soil will be hauled off site for disposal; 8) add a crane, welding truck, two baker tanks, and two side booms to the equipment to be used; 9) add cutting pipeline section, repairing or replacing pipeline section, and welding to the Covered Activities list; 10) increase the total Project footprint by 1.996 acres and increases impacts to Covered Species habitat by 1.842 acres; 11) increase the total amount of Covered Species Credits required to be purchased or acres required for permanent protection and management of HM lands; and 12) revise and replace Figure 3 of the ITP with Figure 3a to depict the expanded L225 workspace 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 July 2022 that the Project, as approved, met the standards for issuance of an ITP under CESA and in February 2023 that Amendment No. 1 to the ITP met the standards for issuance 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 July 2022 and Minor Amendment No. 1 in February 2023 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 updates the Permittee's Contact Person, extends the expiration date of the ITP, as amended, expands the Line 225 excavation area and the workspace surrounding the excavation area, adds a number of construction activities to the Project Description, adds Covered Activities, increases the total footprint of the Project and impacts to Covered Species habitat, and increases the total amount of Covered Species Credits required to be purchased or acres required for permanent protection and management of HM lands.

As described above, these changes to the ITP, as amended, will increase the Project Area and 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:

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

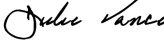
Alternatively, the Permittee shall e-mail the digitally signed ITP to CESA@wildlife.ca.gov. Digital signatures shall comply with Government Code section 16.5. Digital signatures facilitated by CDFW will be automatically returned.

Attachments:

ATTACHMENT A2-1 Figure 3a L225 Site Location

APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

on 5/30/2023

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.

By:  0E5D92ABDE1C4DE... Date: 5/31/2023

Printed Name: Erika Esparza Title: Project Manager

Major Amendment No. 2
Incidental Take Permit 2081-2021-007-04
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
GAS PIPELINE RECOAT AND ANODE INSTALL PROJECT

ATTACHMENT A2-1

Figure 3a L225 Site Location

