

## Attachment B - CEQA Exemption

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ryan Cooksey, Planning & Development

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APNs:** 081-130-021

**Case Nos.:** 15EMP-00000-00011

**Location:** 16900 Calle Real, Gaviota, CA 93117

**Project Title:** Southern California Edison - Gaviota Substation Emergency Permit

**Project Applicant:** Kevin Smith, Southern California Edison

**Project Description:** The temporary installation of emergency backup generation equipment and related facilities (capable of producing approximately 19.5 MW of electricity) at Southern California Edison's Gaviota Substation, located in the Gaviota Area, Third Supervisorial District. The equipment and facilities will be installed in order to provide emergency back-up service if the anticipated 2015-2016 El Niño causes power outages. Unless there is an emergency, units will only be run to conduct testing and only during daylight hours to minimize ambient noise. The equipment and facilities to be temporarily installed, and associated site preparation, consist of the following:

- Fifteen (15) 10-foot by 40-foot containment berms and one (1) 10-foot by 30-foot containment berms located on the substation surface with one-foot-high walls;
- Five (5) 1500 kW diesel generators (L 20 feet, W 8 feet, H 8.5 feet) located on trailers in the containment berms;
- Six (6) 2000 kW diesel generators (L 40 feet, W 8 feet, H 8.5 feet) located on trailers in the containment berms;
- Nine (9) 2.5 MVA transformers (W 10 feet, D 6.5 feet, H 7 feet) located in the containment berms;
- Two (2) 12 kV switchgears located on the substation surface;
- Eleven (11) 2,300-gallon diesel fuel tanks (L 10 feet, W 8 feet, H 8 feet) located in the containment berms;
- Conductors for grounding equipment to existing SCE ground grid located below grade;
- Running of cable and fuel hose connections;
- Installation of K-rails, check dams, and gravel bag berms to divert flows away from equipment;

- **One (1) 66/12 kV 28 MVA “B Bank” (L 16 feet, W 13 feet, H 15.5 feet) and related foundation;**
- **One (1) circuit breaker (L 4 feet, W 4 feet, H 11 feet) and related foundation;**
- **120 feet of new three-inch conduit approximately three feet underground to connect circuit breaker and transformer; and**
- **Conductors for grounding equipment to existing SCE ground grid located below grade.**

**Equipment set-up would occur through the end of December 2015, with work expected to occur 10 hours a day, seven days a week. The newly installed equipment related to emergency back-up generation would remain at the Gaviota Substation until the end of the El Niño season, approximately May 2016, unless the units are in operation for a more extended period due to the need to support emergency repairs of the electric system.**

**The emergency permit also allows for localized, minor repairs to the asphalt of the private access road servicing the substation, as well as the filling of sinkholes adjacent to an existing, failing concrete drainage swale located along the southern edge of the substation. A temporary earthen swale will be installed on the substation site to direct drainage away from the failing, concrete swale. All earth disturbances will occur above depths previously disturbed. Installation and operation of the aforementioned temporary equipment and facilities, as well as work associated with the aforementioned repairs, shall incorporate appropriate best management practices.**

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Kevin Smith, Southern California Edison

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** 15269(c) – Emergency Projects, specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** This section allows for emergency actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has observed atmospheric and oceanic anomalies indicating a strong El Niño through winter 2015-2016 in the Northern Hemisphere. With above average precipitation possible, Southern California Edison (SCE) anticipates emergency storm events may result in prolonged outages to the communities served by SCE’s Goleta area electric system. The temporary installation of backup power generation equipment and related facilities will serve to provide the public with power in the event of such an emergency and thus prevents or mitigates outages to SCE’s Goleta area electrical system due to El Niño storm events.

Southern California Edison – Gaviota Station  
Emergency Permit 15EMP-00000-00011  
Agenda Date: January 19, 2015  
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Lead Agency Contact Person: Ryan Cooksey, Planner      Phone #: 568-2046

Department/Division Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

distribution:      Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)  
Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.