

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Chris Schmuckal, Planner, 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:** 153-270-009, 153-270-013, 153-270-015, 153-270-016, 153-270-028

**Case No.:** 23EMP-00007

**Location:** End of Tunnel Road

**Project Title:** SoCal Edison – Emergency Permit TROW Storm Recovery

**Project Applicant:** Southern California Edison

**Project Description:** The project proposes to clean up and maintain an existing access road to provide safe access to existing electrical towers after excessive damage from the January and February 2023 rain events. Key activities include:

- Clean up of rock fall and mudslide debris materials.
- Fill in impassable road ruts and blowouts in the road.
- Limited repair to existing berms adjacent to existing drains.
- Limited number of water bars to ensure proper drainage control.
- Review of individual rocks from up slope area of rock fall, and removal of rocks if warranted.
- Removal of waste material from the project site.
- Limited vegetation trimming along road edge to maintain clear path of travel for vehicles and equipment.
- Use of a rock crusher located at the “Y” in Road Area 5.
- Use of temporary staging and stockpile areas in designated locations shown in the 2023 TROW Storm Recovery at Mission Canyon plan set.

The specific project work areas and site-specific treatments are described in the 2023 Transmission Road Right of Way (TROW) Storm Recovery at Mission Canyon plan. The project also includes implementation of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan dated March 1, 2023, and the Parking Plan for Mission Canyon CEMA Storm Response Road Repair Project.

Existing material that is blocking the access road will be used onsite as part of the project to the maximum extent feasible. Waste material will be hauled offsite. Excess useable material will be stockpiled onsite in locations where stockpiles already exist in road areas 10-13. No fill material shall be stockpiled within the critical root zone of any oak tree. No trees are proposed for removal.

The projects work hours are from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM with the 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM hour including non-noise generating construction activities only. The project proposes to work a 12 day on, 2 days off schedule until the project is complete (with days off being on a Saturday and Sunday).

Access to the project site will be taken off of Tunnel Road. The project is located along Road Areas 1-16 of the existing access road on parcels 153-270-009, 153-270-013, 153-270-015, 153-270-016, and 153-270-028 in the First Supervisorial District.

This project is an emergency because, following the significant storms from winter of 2023, the Tunnel Trail access road was dangerous and impassable. Immediate repair is the access way is necessary to reestablish safe use of the access road for trail users and for SCE to conduct inspections and maintain the critical electrical infrastructure and maintain reliable power in the community.

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

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Southern California Edison

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(s) exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this case because heavy rainfall in January and February 2023 cause slides, and rutting which made the Tunnel Trail access road impassable. Immediate repair of the access way is needed in order to reestablish safe use of the access road for trail users and for Southern California Edison to conduct inspections and maintenance on critical electrical infrastructure and maintain reliable power in the community.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Chris Schmuckal, Planner

SoCal Edison – Emergency Permit TROW Storm Recovery, Case No. 23EMP-00007  
May 18, 2023  
Attachment B – 3

Phone #: (805) 568-3510      Department/Division Representative: 

Date: 5/10/23

Acceptance Date: 5/18/23

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

