

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:

Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022110521

Project Title: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) eTS 58713.01 Line 85 Milepost 75.85 Remediation Digs Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-064-04 (ITP) Major Amendment No. 7)

Project Location: The Project is located approx. 6 miles east of the City of Taft in Kern County, California. The Project is specifically located at six distinct Work Areas 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. Work Areas 1 - 4 are within California Department of Water Resources-owned land in Section 12 of Township 32 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). Work Area 5 is within privately-owned land in Section 7 of Township 32 South, Range 25 East, MDB&M. Work Area 6 is within California Department of Water Resources owned land in Section 12 of Township 32 South, Range 24 East, MDB&M. Work Areas are located at approximately 35.158518°, -119.349025°; 35.157883°, -119.346292°; 35.158184°, -119.345164°; 35.164648°, -119.349428°; 35.155344°, -119.335747°; and 35.158649°, -119.349604°.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an amended ITP (No. 2081-2022-064-A7), to authorize SoCalGas (Permittee) to incidentally take Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoide nitratoide*) which is as an endangered species under CESA, San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) which is designated as a threatened species under CESA, and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) which is designated as a threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D), (b)(6)(B), and (b)(6)(E), respectively). Collectively, these are referred to as the Covered Species.

The Project includes activities necessary to inspect and repair five segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 near MP 75.85 where anomalies were identified and to install cathodic protection for integrity and safety of the pipeline. This Amended ITP (Major Amendment No. 7) extends the expiration date for an additional 6 months, extends the timeline to complete the HM Lands requirement by an additional 18 months, expands Work Area 6 from 1,500 square feet (0.034 acre) to 3,375 square feet (0.077 acre) to accommodate an additional laydown area and parking area, installs a new concrete pad for the new cabinet rectifier, reroutes and buries the existing gas tap that served the former TEG to connect to the new TEG to restore cathodic protection and maintain pipeline integrity within the approved Project Area, and revises Figure 6a. The resulting impacts of the Project to the Covered Species remain the same.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to 0.76 acres of Covered Species habitat and permanently impacts to 2.67 square feet (0.000061 acre) of habitat for the Covered Species. Covered Species may disperse across the 1.23-acre disturbed/developed area (existing unvegetated, compacted dirt roads), which may be disrupted while Project activities are occurring, but these areas do not provide other habitat values for the Covered Species. The project is expected to result in incidental take of the Covered Species. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

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Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Southern California Gas Company, Chloe Phan, Project Manager, 1919 S State College Blvd, ANAG2Z, Anaheim, California 92806

Exempt Status:

- ☒ Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b); Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(4)
- ☐ Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment**CDFW Contact Person:** Sarah Bahm (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)),sarah.bahm@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Sarah Paulson

Signature:

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Date: 7/27/2026

for Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

**Attachment to Notice of Exemption
State Clearinghouse No. 2022110521**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
Amended Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-064-04
(Major Amendment No. 7)**

**Southern California Gas Company
eTS 58713.01 Line 85 Milepost 75.85 Remediation Digs Project**

Approval of this Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) because the Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (b), "Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare which includes those actions that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency" and Public Resources Code, section 21080, subdivision (b)(4), "Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency". "Emergency" is defined as "a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services" (Pub. Resources Code, § 21060.3).

The purpose of the Project is to prevent pipeline failure by inspecting and repairing five segments of the 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line) 85 near Milepost 75.85 where potential anomalies have been identified via remote pigging equipment and installing cathodic protection. Repairs are needed to ensure the integrity and safety of the pipeline and to reduce potential impacts to other pipelines in the vicinity of the California Aqueduct, and possibly to the California Aqueduct itself. The Project has been subject to numerous delays and scheduling conflicts from the California Department of Water Resources and Gas Control to accommodate gas needs for winter, as well as additional locations where repairs have been identified as the Project progressed.

On June 29, 2026, the Permittee requested to extend the expiration date for an additional 6 months, expanding Work Area 6 from 1,500 square feet (0.034 acre) to 3,375 square feet (0.077 acre) to accommodate an additional laydown area and parking area, installing a new concrete pad for the new cabinet rectifier, and rerouting and burying the existing gas tap that served the former TEG to connect to the new TEG to restore cathodic protection and maintain pipeline integrity within the approved Project Area.

This Amended ITP (Major Amendment No. 7) amends the ITP to extend the expiration date to December 31, 2026, extends the timeline to complete the HM Lands requirement by an additional 18 months, expands Work Area 6 from 1,500 square feet (0.034 acre) to 3,375 square feet (0.077 acre) to accommodate an additional laydown area and parking area, installing a new concrete pad for the new cabinet rectifier, and rerouting and burying the existing gas tap that served the former TEG to connect to the

new TEG to restore cathodic protection and maintain pipeline integrity within the approved Project Area. The resulting impacts of the Project to the Covered Species remain the same.

CDFW has determined that Major Amendment No. 7 may increase the amount take of the Covered Species, but it will not increase Covered Species habitat impacts. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2022-064-04, as amended. Measures include: 1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.