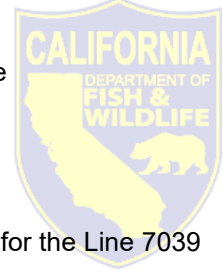


## Notice of Exemption

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

**From:**  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Central Region  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710



**Project Title:** California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-040-04 for the Line 7039 Mile Post 14.12-1 Leak Repair Project (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project is located just north of the City of Bakersfield approximately 0.75 mile north of Meadows Field Airport in Kern County, California. The Project is specifically located within the Oildale United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Township 28 South, Range 27 East, and Section 34, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian at latitude 35.449°N and longitude -119.056°W.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2025-040-04 authorizing Southern California Gas Company to incidentally take San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) listed as threatened under CESA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(E)).

The ITP authorizes take of San Joaquin kit fox (Covered Species) for Project activities to replace a pipeline segment where a leaking valve has been detected on the Line 7039 natural gas transmission pipeline at approximate milepost 14.12. The immediate replacement is needed to address safety regulatory requirements and to ensure the pipeline does not require isolation or reduction. The Project will include excavating to inspect the pipeline, replacing segments of pipe and a valve, recoating the pipeline, and backfilling the excavation. The Project workspace will be returned to pre-Project conditions, to the extent feasible, and allowed to revegetate naturally. The Project is expected to temporarily disturb 0.81 acre of Covered Species habitat.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Southern California Gas Company, Christian Sicam, Project Manager, 555 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90013

**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](mailto:sarah.bahm@wildlife.ca.gov)

DocuSigned by:  
 Signature: Sarah Paulson Date: 8/6/2025  
E9964E60293D40A...  
 for Julie A. Vance  
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment to Notice of Exemption**

### **California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-040-04 Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Line 7039 Mile Post 14.12-1 Leak Repair Project**

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for “Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency” (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, § 21080, subd. (b)(4)) and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269, subd. (b)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). “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 replace a section of high-pressure pipeline where a leaking valve has been detected on the 24-inch Line 7039 natural gas transmission pipeline at Mile Post 14.12. The Project must begin immediately as required by state and federal regulations to repair the leak. Natural gas pipeline maintenance is required by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 112 F. General Order 112 F incorporates the United States Department of Transportation regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49, Part 192, Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline, as well as the California Department of Water Resources California Well Standards Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90, to ensure a safe and constant supply of natural gas to customers.

Line 7039 provides natural gas to SoCalGas’s system, as fed from producers’ supplies throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The leaking valve warrants immediate repair to reduce the potential for creating a future hazard, pursuant to SoCalGas’s procedural manual prepared under CFR 192.605. If the leak is not repaired immediately, CPUC may require isolation or reduction of natural gas in Line 7039 to avoid safety issues. Isolation or a reduction of natural gas along Line 7039 risks SoCalGas’s ability to provide reliable natural gas to customers within the San Joaquin Valley resulting in loss of provision of a public service essential to the health, safety, or welfare of customers.

The Project will include excavating a trench where the pipeline will be replaced and install two pressure control fittings and temporary bypass to allow for continued natural gas transmission around the replacement section. The pipeline will be: cleaned/abated, inspected, removed, new sections of Line 7039 and the 2-inch Line 38-3800 installed where these pipelines intersect, a new valve tapped into Line 7039 to feed Line 38-3800, recoated, tested, and excavation backfilled. Cross-compression, welding and tie-in activities will occur continuously for 72 hours, including overnight. Project workspace will be returned to pre-Project conditions to the extent feasible and allowed to revegetate naturally. Project is expected to temporarily disturb 0.81 acre of Covered Species habitat.

Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-040-04. Measures include:

1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.