

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
 FAX (415) 904-5400



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**ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2010 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director**  
**Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency**

<b>DE MINIMIS WAIVERS</b>		
<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>E-10-017-W</b> Southern California Edison Co.	Consolidate the existing roof-mounted antennas / monitoring devices and relocate them onto the second level of a two-level platform at the rear of the main facility building at Catalina Pebbly Beach Generating Station.	Catalina Pebbly Beach Generating Station Los Angeles County
<b>E-10-018-W</b> Aera Energy, LLC	Place approximately 90 sand bags in a pyramid formation at three locations, 37 ft. apart, under the pipeline span at Platform Emmy's offshore oil production pipeline.	Offshore State waters Huntington Beach

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**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**  
**DE MINIMIS WAIVER**

**DATE:** December 8, 2010 **PERMIT NO. E-10-017-W**

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

**Applicant:** Southern California Edison (SCE)  
P.O. Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770

**Background and Project Description:** The SCE Catalina Pebbly Beach Generating Station currently supports about twelve communication antennas/monitoring devices on the roof of the main facility building. Due to safety and access concerns related to the current location of this equipment, SCE proposes to consolidate the existing roof-mounted devices and relocate them onto the second level of a two level platform that would be installed at the rear of the main facility building. In addition, SCE is also carrying out internal system upgrades on the building and proposes to install two air conditioning units on the lower level of the proposed platform. These air conditioning units would service the control room located within the main facility building. Installation of the proposed platform and equipment would be carried out entirely within a paved area adjacent to the main building at the existing Pebbly Beach Generating Station facility. The platform would be 24-feet tall and 20-feet wide and would include a lattice screen on the outer side that would be painted to match the color of the main facility building to which it would be attached.

**Waiver Rationale:** For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- The platform, antenna equipment, and air conditioning units would be located adjacent to similar equipment on an industrial site within the boundary of the Pebbly Beach Generating Station. No grading or vegetation clearance activities are required. No vegetation or other sensitive resources exist at the project site.

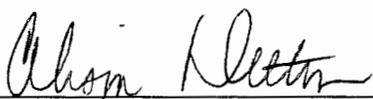
*Notice of Coastal Development Permit De Minimus Waiver  
E-10-017-W (Southern California Edison) Page 2 of 2*

- All construction and installation work would be carried out on the Pebbly Beach Generating Station site and Best Management Practices and spill prevention and control protocols would be in place at all times that heavy equipment, machinery, and/or hazardous materials are used during installation and construction activities associated with this project.
- The antenna and air conditioning unit support platform would be covered by an external lattice screen painted to match the color scheme of the main facility building to which it would be attached. The height and width of the platform is consistent with the height and width of the main facility building and would not significantly expand the visual footprint of this structure.

**Important:** This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of December 15-17, 2010 in San Francisco, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS  
Executive Director

By: 

ALISON DETTMER  
Deputy Director

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45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
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VOICE (415) 904-5200  
FAX (415) 904-5400  
TDD (415) 597-5885

**NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT WAIVER – DE MINIMIS**

**DATE:** December 9, 2010 **PERMIT NO:** E-10-018-W  
**TO:** Coastal Commission and Interested Parties  
**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicant for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit (CDP), pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

**Applicant:** Aera Energy LLC

**Background:** This waiver would allow Aera to stabilize with sand bags a section of Platform Emmy's offshore oil production pipeline that is "spanning" above the seafloor. In 2008, while inspecting its pipeline, Aera discovered two spans of 50 and 38 feet over rocky substrate at a location approximately 200 feet offshore. By 2009, additional material had eroded under the pipeline, creating one 148 foot span with a maximum height of one foot off the sea floor. After reviewing several approaches, Aera is proposing to install sand bags in a pyramid formation at three locations, approximately 37 feet apart, under the span. This approach would provide both vertical and partial lateral pipe support.

**Project Location:** Bolsa Chica Outlet, City of Huntington Beach, Orange County and State waters, approximately 200 feet offshore between Platform Emmy and the City of Huntington Beach.

**Project Description:** Aera proposes to place approximately 90 sand bags in a pyramid formation at three locations, approximately 37 feet apart, under the pipeline span. The proposed action will provide enough support to the pipeline to ensure that it is not overstressed and in danger of damage or rupture.

Sand to fill the sand bags will be collected from the Bolsa Chica Full Tidal Basin inlet sand spit. To facilitate access to the sand pit, Aera will install a temporary wooden staircase. The staircase will allow workers access to the site while maintaining the integrity of a rocky ledge that lines the sand pit. A 23.5 ton boom truck, staged on the adjacent gravel road, will be used to lower the portable staircase assembly in place. Plywood boards will be used for the stair base and access ramp and an existing anchor eye and form stakes will be used to secure the stairway.

Aera will excavate up to 84 cubic feet of sand using hand tools and load the sand into bags made of a non-toxic, high strength woven geotextile.<sup>1</sup> Once the required amount of sand has been removed, Aera will fully remove the staircase and any additional equipment, and return the site to its original condition. All sand removal work will be performed during low tide prior to March 2011 and is estimated to take 1 day to complete.

A diver will place the sand bags under the spanning pipeline segment. This phase is expected to last 1 day.

**Other Agency Approvals:** The California State Lands Commission and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have approved the proposed repair work. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the project and intends to issue approval when the Coastal Commission approves the project.

**Waiver Rationale:** For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with the policies of Chapter Three of the Coastal Act:

- The Bolsa Chica Full Tidal Basin inlet sand spit has been designated as an appropriate site for sand removal. In fact, in order to maintain an open inlet into the Bolsa Chica Tidal Basins (newly created with a large-scale dredging and restoration effort in 2005-2006), biennial dredging is required at this location. Sediment testing done prior to a 2008 dredge and disposal project indicated that the sediments at this location are nearly pure sand at a 99% sand fraction, and are thus appropriate for the proposed purpose. In addition, sand removal activities will not negatively impact any coastal species of flora and fauna. The temporary staircase installed to gain access into the sand pit will protect the rocky ledge habitat from potential damage from workers.
- Although sand removal will occur at a location that has historically supported grunion runs, this project will not impact the grunions or the eggs deposited on the beach during the run. Aera will complete the sand removal portion of the project prior to March 2011, when the regional grunion runs typically take place.
- Proposed activities will not adversely impact the federally endangered California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*). The sand removal site is approximately 0.5 miles from a least tern nesting colony in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the proposed project and determined that because the work will take place outside of the nesting season, and because dry sand will be removed above the tideline (and thus turbidity of the water will be unaffected), terns are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed project.

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<sup>1</sup> This material has proven successful in similar applications such as Aera's 2003 Beta 16" Pipeline clamp installation.

- Repair of the spanning pipeline is necessary to maintain the integrity of the oil pipeline and prevent the release of oil into marine waters.
- This project will not result in any significant impacts to visual resources. The proposed sand removal site is located near the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and the Bolsa Chica State Beach, both of which support significant views of the Bolsa Chica wetlands and the Pacific Ocean. These views will not be obstructed by the project. Further, sand removal is expected to take one day only and the site will be restored to its initial appearance.
- The project will not limit or alter coastal access or recreational opportunities. The sand removal activities are temporary and confined to a small area, and thus, will not affect coastal access or public enjoyment of the Bolsa Chica Tidal Basin.
- This project will not adversely impact commercial fishing or recreational boating activities. Two weeks prior to pipeline repair activities, Aera will issue a Notice to Mariners notifying local fishermen and boaters of the date and location of the proposed pipeline repair activity.

Important: This waiver is not valid unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver will be reported to the Commission at the meeting of December 15-17, 2010 in San Francisco. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Douglas  
Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_



ALISON DETTMER  
Deputy Director  
Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division