MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

for the

Sacramento Area Voltage Support Project

Prepared to Accompany

The Sacramento Area Voltage Support Project
Supplemental Environmental EIS/EIR
(DOE/EIS-0323S1)

July 2009

Background

Western Area Power Administration (Western), an agency within the Department of Energy (DOE) markets and transmits electricity from multi-use, Federal, water projects. Western sells wholesale electricity to more than 70 preference customers in central and northern California and Nevada. Western's Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) includes the greater Sacramento area. SNR maintains and operates numerous substations and more than 1,200 miles of transmission lines. These transmission lines are interconnected to other greater Sacramento-area transmission system owners, load-serving entities, and utilities, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Western's system contributes to and is affected by voltage stability, reliability, and security of the greater Sacramento-area transmission system.

Transmission system studies in 2001/2002 and 2006/2007 have shown that the existing transmission lines in the greater Sacramento area have reached their maximum power transfer limits for serving the area's energy needs, particularly in the northern portion of the greater Sacramento area. Western, transmission system owners, load-serving entities, and utilities need transmission system additions and upgrades to (1) maintain voltage stability, reliability, and security in accordance with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council Planning/Operations Reliability Standards, and (2) continue meeting Western's legislative and contractual requirements. The resulting system additions and upgrades, including the Sacramento Area Voltage Support (SVS Project) would provide the reliability and security benefits as well as additional power-importing capabilities to the greater Sacramento area.

Project Description

The SVS Project consists of (1) constructing a new, double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between O'Banion Substation and the area just south of the Elverta Substation, which would include a new circuit from O'Banion Substation to Elverta Substation and a new circuit from O'Banion Substation to Natomas Substation and (2) reconstructing the existing double-circuit 230-kV/115-kV transmission line between Elverta Substation and Natomas Substation into a double-circuit 230-kV transmission line.

Environmental Protection Measures

Western identified 104 Environmental Protection Measures (EPM) in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/EIR) to protect resources during construction and maintenance of the SVS Project. These measures are found in Appendix C of the final SEIS/EIR.

Coordination and Consultation

Western has and continues to consult with various agencies and obtain permits for the SVS Project. If additional measures and stipulations are identified, they will be added to Western's list of commitments. Following is the status of Western's coordination and consultation, to date:

- Western received a letter on November 18, 2008, from National Marine Fisheries Service in which they concurred with Western's determination of No Effect.

- Western submitted a Biological Assessment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on January 22, 2009. Western expects to receive a Biological Opinion by August 2009.

- Western has applied for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act.

- Western is coordinating with Feather River Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, Placer County Air Pollution Control District, Reclamation District 1000, California State Lands Commission, and Caltrans to obtain required permits.

- As part of National Historic Preservation Act section 106 consultation, Western executed a Programmatic Agreement on March 3, 2009.

Summary of Impact Assessment

Chapter 4 of the Draft SEIS/EIR provides a detailed impact analysis of the 17 resource areas analyzed. With implementation of EPMs, the project would not result in significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts for any of these resource areas.

Purpose of the Mitigation Action Plan

This Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) is intended to accompany the SEIS/EIR and Record of Decision (ROD) and has been prepared in accordance with DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021.331[b]). It will be used by Western to ensure that each EPM and mitigation measure adopted as a condition for project approval is implemented. It will explain how measures, designed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the Proposed Project will be planned and implemented.

Mitigation Action Plan Approach

Western will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of all EPMs identified in the SEIS/EIR as well as those additional mitigation measures identified through consultations and permits. To assist this effort, Western has retained an environmental compliance contractor to provide crew training on environmental sensitivity, conduct pre-construction surveys, monitor day-to-day field activities, and report findings, recommendations, and corrective actions to Western.

Western will require inspection status reports on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. The inspection status reports will provide an update on all monitoring and other environmental protection activities during the course of the reporting period. The reports will include a summary of all monitoring, compliance and other project related activities conducted and performed by the contractor that week. The summary will call attention to any issues of concern, need for action, or attention to other urgent or time-sensitive issues. Reports also will include

schedule updates, outstanding issues, risk identification, and action items, projected and/or anticipated activities for upcoming compliance and monitoring activities, a summary of communications, contacts, and correspondence, and survey reports.

Western has designated personnel to implement and oversee the environmental compliance contractor and all aspects of the MAP. Western will ensure that the designated in-house and compliance contractor personnel have appropriate authority to enforce mitigation requirements. The environmental compliance contractor, in coordination with Western's construction inspector may suspend project construction activities found to be inconsistent with mitigation objectives or SVS Project approval conditions. Western will have procedures in place to comply with permit conditions and will have contract provisions requiring construction personnel be responsible for adhering to the requirements of the MAP and other contractual requirements related to mitigation as part of SVS Project construction. Western also will coordinate all appropriate reporting information to DOE under Western's Annual NEPA Planning Summary.