



Large Organism Exclusion Device

Marine Mammal Monitoring and Protection Plan

Prepared for

**Southern California Edison Company
Rosemead, California**

Submitted by



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In May 2010, the State Water Resources Control Board enacted the *Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling* which requires the installation of a barrier with bars spaced no more than 9 inches (in) on center on all offshore cooling water intakes to exclude large marine organisms such as seals, sea lions, and sea turtles. A large organism exclusion device (LOED) designed to meet this requirement is scheduled to be installed over each of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station's (SONGS) primary offshore intake structure (POIS) within the California State Lands Commission easements. The installation will require construction support vessels to transit from a local port to (and from) the project site offshore of SONGS, prepare the site by excavating sediments around each POIS, sidecast excavated sediments, and install the LOEDs. These activities could interact with local marine mammals, and possibly sea turtles. Consistent with recent nearshore projects, including the Steam Generator Replacement Transport and the Pebbly Beach Riprap Repair projects, this marine mammal monitoring and protection plan (MMPP) has been developed to mitigate any potential impacts to local resources.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Execution of the MMPP will require reliable communications among the marine monitors, the construction contractor(s), and ultimately Southern California Edison (SCE) officials. Therefore, a minimum of two forms of communication will be available at all times. Examples include cellular phone, VHF marine radio, handheld radio, citizen's band (CB) radio, etc.

3.0 MONITORING

3.1 SCHEDULING

SCE has a proposed project start date of Winter through Spring 2013 for the installation of both LOEDs. Historic records from the area suggest marine mammals are at their peak abundances in the SONGS area at this time. Therefore, the MMPP is divided into two sections, (1) vessel transit and (2) on-site installation to ensure the safety of marine mammals.

3.1.1 Vessel Transit

A training session will be conducted with all vessel crews to review the purpose and need for this MMPP. All crews will be notified of the need to evade, to the extent safely possible, crossing the path of migrating whales. If possible, vessels should maintain a distance of no closer than 1000 ft from migrating whales during transits to and from the project site offshore of SONGS. In the event a whale approaches to within 1000 ft of the vessel in a manner outside of the vessel captain's control, all forward propulsion should be stopped, if safe to do so, until the animal has moved away. In the event a whale strike occurs, the vessel captain must notify the U.S. Coast Guard

immediately and provide information included in Appendix A. Subsequent notifications must be made to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and SCE.

3.1.2 Project Site

A NMFS-approved marine mammal monitor will observe for the presence of marine mammals within the project area. California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) are the most likely to occur. Because of their curious nature, passing sea lions may investigate the activity. The monitor will notify the on-site construction foreman and recommend all installation activities be suspended in the event a marine mammal approaches within 200 feet of the POIS where the installation is underway. Marine mammals that are seaward of the construction barge or that may surface near the barge to investigate will be closely observed. The monitors shall have the discretion to continue operation if it is not likely the mammal will swim into the activity zone. Mammals attempting to haul out on the barge or on other equipment will be chased away using approved methods from the National Marine Fisheries Service and subject to their approval.

3.2 Log Book

All sightings will be documented in the monitor logbook with a date-stamped photograph taken of the animal, if possible. Any unique markings the animal possesses will be catalogued, such as tags, scars, discolorations, etc.

Appendix A: Injured Marine Mammal & Ship Strike Report

INJURED MARINE MAMMAL OR SHIP STRIKE REPORTING LOG

In the event an injured marine mammal is encountered or a ship strike on a whale occurs, complete the following in preparation to report the event to the USCG, NMFS, and SCE.

Vessel Name _____

1. Date _____

2. Time of observation/occurrence _____

3. Location (Lat/Long) _____

4. Species and approximate size (if known) _____

5. Speed of vessel causing impact _____

6. Size of vessel causing impact _____

7. Water depth at site of impact _____

8. Wind speed and direction _____

9. Fate of the animal, if known _____

10. Description of the impact: _____

11. Agencies notified: Date Time
Agency Contact name _____

Emergency Contacts

Affiliation: Contact	Phone	Mobile
SONGS Env.: TBD		
SCE Corp. Env.: Kim Anthony	626-462-2590	626-862-2977
NMFS: Sarah Wilkin	562-980-3320	
USCG	VHF Ch. 16	