

Project title:	Off-ROW Hazard Tree Removal: FOL-NIM Distribution Line, Sacramento County, CA		
Requested By:	Michael Prowatzke	Mail Code :	N0220 Phone: 916-353-4081
Date Submitted:	2-1-2019	Date Required:	2-5-2019

Description of the Project:

To comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council and WAPA directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to remove two off-ROW hazard tree near a 115-kV transmission line in Sacramento County. These trees pose a threat to the line in their current condition.

The stump will be manually felled, with debris chipped and broadcast (subject to landowner desires). Wood will be stacked or piled in the right-of-way. The trees will not be dragged. No rubber or metal tracked machines will be used.

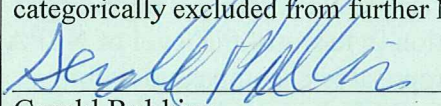
Due to the hazard nature of the trees (leaning toward line, compromised base), removal by February 8, 2019 is desired.

Location of the Project:

Folsom-Nimbus 115-kV span 1/3 and 1/4

Attachments: Maps, Letter of Concurrence

Work Order Number:

Action taken	
<small>Note: All Documentation is Attached</small>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet	
<p>Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.</p>	
 Gerald Robbins Environment Supervisor	Feb. 1, 2019 Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved

CC: Requestor:	File Code:	Assigned to:	Project #:	Environmental Specialist: Michael Prowatzke Date: 2-1-2019
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-------------------	--

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION	Project Number:
--	---	------------------------

Integral Elements

Project Title: Off-ROW Hazard Tree Removal: FOL-NIM Distribution Line, Sacramento County, CA

Category of Action:

B1.3: Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment. Maintenance includes repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures such as reseeded and re-vegetation.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no significant adverse environmental effects associated with this action.



Western Area Power Administration,
SIERRA NEVADA REGION
NEPA Attachment Sheet

Project
Number:

PROJECT TITLE:

Off-ROW Hazard Tree Removal: FOL-NIM Distribution Line, Sacramento
County, CA

REVIEW ACTION AND RESULTS

Western proposes to remove two hazard trees along the Folsom-Nimbus (FOL-NIM) transmission line, spans 1/3 and 1/4, on State Park land. The identified hazard trees are located outside of the ROW but are close enough to potentially hit the transmission line.

Adjacent lines and access roads have been surveyed for sensitive cultural and/or biological resources. Habitat was reviewed for potential to harbor special-status species, and an on-site survey was conducted. Elderberry shrubs (habitat for the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB)) are present in the area but have been flagged and are easily avoidable. Cultural resources are not likely present in the immediate vicinity due to past disturbance and urban locations. Conservation measures are prescribed for biological and cultural features below.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The trees lie in a natural forested area within a state park.



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The affected environment may contain habitat for VELB. A pre-work survey was conducted and avoidance areas flagged as necessary. As the project will occur outside the nesting season, no bird nesting surveys are required.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES:

• Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle:

Prior to initiating vegetation clearance in the Central Valley below 3,000 feet with elderberry plants present, qualified personnel will clearly flag or fence each elderberry plant that has a stem measuring one inch or greater in diameter at ground level. If an elderberry plant meeting this criterion is present:

- A minimum buffer zone of 20 feet outside of the dripline of each elderberry plant will be provided during all routine O&M activities, within which only manual methods for vegetation clearing will be allowed.
- No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals will be used within 100 feet of an elderberry plant, except direct application to target vegetation (e.g. injection or cut-stump). Trimming, rather than removal of shrubs, will be used where feasible. Directional felling of trees and manual cutting of trees prior to removal will be used to minimize impacts to elderberries.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS

- (1) **CULTURAL INFORMATION: Hand clearing/removal only. No skidding. Lop and scatter permitted. Contractor is to limit area of work to immediate vicinity of danger tree only.**

- This action is covered by Western's Programmatic Agreement, "Programmatic Agreement among the Western Area Power Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Concerning Emergency and Routine Maintenance Activities at Western Facilities in California," revised 3/1/2010.
- Include in Western's annual report
- Minimization Measures Required

AIR QUALITY

- "This action is covered* under the Sacramento Valley ROW Maintenance Environmental Assessment, and therefore will not pose significant impact to air quality."
- Standard Operating Procedures for Sacramento Valley will apply and are listed below.

1. Keep all equipment in good operating condition to reduce exhaust emissions for all methods using machinery or vehicles (such as chainsaws, trucks, and graders);
2. Keep equipment logs and set schedules for preventative maintenance;
3. Periodically replace older equipment with equipment meeting more recent stringent California emission standards;
4. Shut down rather than idle equipment not in active use; and
5. Avoid major operations on days when the local Air Quality Index is expected to exceed 150.