

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Perry Wickham

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 091373/2800 (Old Number NVN 0058569)

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 11.5 E (9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2013-0004-CX

Project Name: Como Ridge Power Line, Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC)

Project Description: Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) has applied for the renewal of an existing Right-of-Way (ROW) grant, NVN 0058569, for an existing 23KV Over Head (O/H) distribution power line that was constructed in October, 1962. The BLM does not renew pre-FLPMA right-of-way authorizations, the holder must apply for a new authorization under FLPMA. The holder did submit an application 120 days prior to the expiration of the existing authorization so BLM will convert the pre-FLPMA to a FLPMA authorization. The existing O/H distribution power line begins in Government Lot 1, Township 15 North, Range 22 East, Section 14, Mt. Diablo Meridian and terminates at the Como Ridge Communication Site located in the NW1/4 of the SE ¼ of Township 15 North, Range 22 East, Section 11, Mt. Diablo Meridian. The O/H distribution power line is currently operational and will remain in use after the grant is re-issued. The original ROW was issued to SPPC on October 18, 1962, for a term of fifty (50) years and expires on October 17, 2012. The conversion of the pre-FLPMA to a FLPMA authorization would be for a term of 30 years.

The project area is not within Bi-State priority habitat for sage-grouse.

Applicant Name: Sierra Pacific Power Company

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): Lyon County
Mt. Diablo Meridian

T. 15 N., R. 22 E.,

sec. 11, NWSE, Govt. Lot 1, MS 42.

sec. 14, Govt. Lot 1, MS 39.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 2257.82' (feet) x 40' (feet) containing 2.07 Acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): Page LND-7 states “non-bureau initiated realty proposals would be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public”.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		X
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		X
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		X
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		X
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		X
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		X
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		X
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		X
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		X
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		X
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		X
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		X

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Realty Specialist: Erik Pignata ___ or Perry Wickham PW

Outdoor Recreation Planner: Arthur Callan A

Hydrologist: Niki Cutler NC

Archaeologist: Jim Carter ___ or Rachel Crews RC

Wildlife Biologist: Pilar Ziegler PZ

Botanist: Dean Tonenna DT

Planning & Environmental Coordinator: Brian Buttazoni BB

Range Management Specialist: Katrina Leavitt KL or Ryan Leary ___ or Kathryn Dyer ___

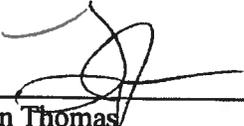
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist: John Axtel JA

Geologist: Dan Erbes DE or Joel Hartmann ___

Forester: Coreen Francis CF

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS.

Approved by:



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

11-16-12

(date)