

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Shaina Shippen

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 093355

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 11.5, Appendix 4-(E)(12): "grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way."

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2015-0001-CX

Project Name: Southwest Gas Corporation pipeline right-of-way

Project Description:

The Southwest Gas Corporation proposes to install and maintain an existing subsurface natural gas pipeline confined within an existing Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) right-of-way (NVN 054710) in the vicinity of Cantlon Drive, Wadsworth, Nevada. The applicant purposes to insert a two foot wide main into an existing two foot wide pipeline located 36 feet under the surface. The Proposed Action would require the creation of 15 access pits to perform the "split and pull" process; fourteen three foot by three foot pits and one four foot by eight foot pit. Additionally, the Proposed Action would involve clearing and grading within the existing NDOT right-of-way and would require the use of backhoes and utility vehicles.

The Proposed Action would occur in 2015 and span approximately two weeks. When construction is complete, the applicant proposes to complete re-vegetation, soil replacement, and soil stabilization in the disturbed areas. Use of this right-of-way would be effective upon issuance by the BLM would be a standard 30 year Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) right-of-way.

Does the project include new surface disturbing activities? Yes No

Is the project located within preliminary general habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Is the project located within preliminary priority habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Is the project located within proposed critical habitat for bi-state sage-grouse? Yes No

Is the project located within critical habitat for Webber's Ivesia? Yes No

Applicant Name: Southwest Gas Corporation

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): Washoe County, Mount Diablo Meridian, T. 20 N., R. 24 E., sec. 18, lot 2, and NW1/4NE1/4.

Sierra Front Field Office September 2014

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 0.898 acres.

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): LND – 7, Administrative Actions, #6: “exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public.”

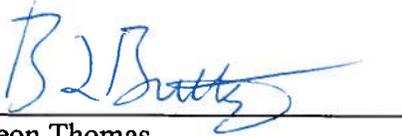
Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

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?		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?		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)]?		X
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		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?		X
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		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?		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?		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?		X
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		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)?		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)?		X

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

10/6/2014
(date)

*ACTION
FILE*

Does this CX constitute the decision document for this Proposed Action? Yes No