



**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region  
114 Parkshore Drive  
Folsom, California 95630-4710

DEC 2 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has completed the Final Environmental Assessment for Right-of-Way Maintenance in the San Joaquin Valley, California (Final EA) and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (enclosed). The Final EA analyzes proposed operation and maintenance (O&M) procedures for its existing electrical transmission line infrastructure, rights-of-way (ROW), and access roads. The project area encompasses infrastructure within the counties of San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Santa Clara, and Merced. The proposed O&M activities include, but are not limited to, facility inspection/repair, vegetation management, and equipment upgrades.

In 2010 the Draft EA was circulated for pre-approval review to satisfy our obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) including the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and Department of Energy NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021). At that time, Western also solicited public comment for the Draft EA through paid advertisement in the East County Times and The Stockton Record. Seven comment letters were received on the Draft and changes were incorporated and included in the Final EA.

This letter is intended to provide notice to interested parties that the Final EA is available and no identified impacts were found to be significant, or they have been reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of conservation measures; therefore, Western has issued a FONSI. Both the Final EA and FONSI for the San Joaquin Right-of-Way O&M Project are enclosed and are also available on Western's website at <http://www.wapa.gov/sn/environment>. If you have any questions regarding Western's proposed project or about our NEPA process with regard to this project, please contact Mr. Ricardo Velarde at (916) 353-4565 or by e-mail at [velarde@wapa.gov](mailto:velarde@wapa.gov).

Western appreciates your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Robbins".

Gerald Robbins  
Natural Resources Manager

2 Enclosures