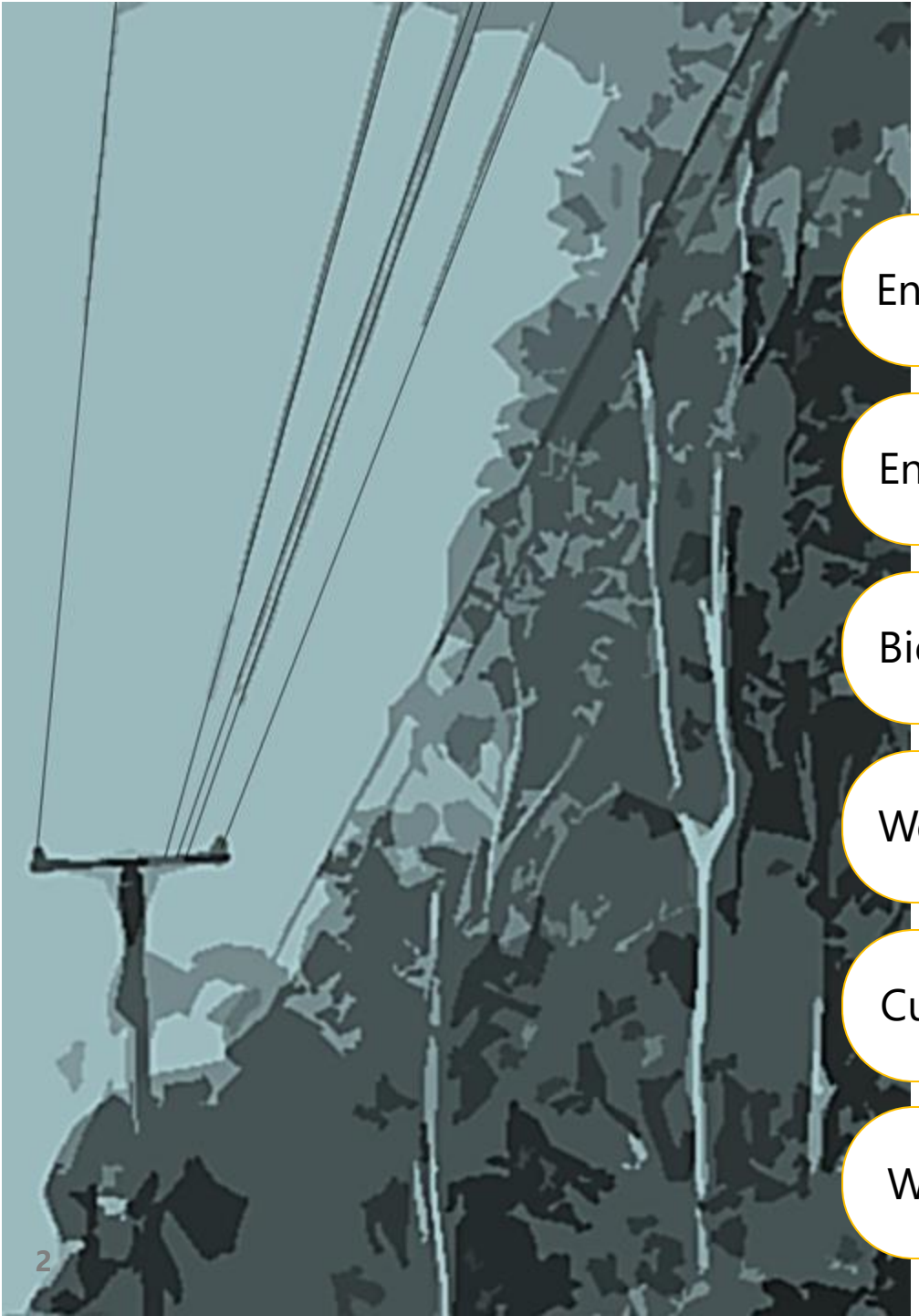
Environmental Training for Vegetation Management

Environmental Services Department



What We'll Cover Today

- Environmental Compliance & Requirements
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)
- Biological Resources
- Wetland/Water Resources
- Cultural/Archaeological Resources
- Working on Public Lands

Why is Environmental Compliance Important?

A **wide variety of environmental resources are protected by law** and are found in SCE's Service Territory. If SCE and contractors do not comply with the law, there are ***serious consequences*** including:

- Work shutdowns
- Jeopardizes the credibility and reputation of SCE and Contractors

Environmental Requirements

You must know the environmental "rules" for the job!
(found in Fulcrum and Survey123 or provided by your Scheduler or SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist)

- If you don't know your Environmental Requirements, contact your supervisor or Scheduler immediately.
- Don't assume anything! Check the rules to know if you need a survey or monitor prior to work.
- Do not schedule future work with your environmental monitor or surveyor. New or changing scope must be communicated to your supervisor or Scheduler.

Have a question? Need support?

Contact your SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) may be marked in the field

ESAs marked with pin flags or flagging tape

ESA sign on pole

ESA sign on stake

Avoid the ESA

If you need assistance, contact your Vegetation Management SSP

Biological Resources

Bird Nests

Inspect in and around work areas for **active** bird nests before beginning work activities:

Scan branches for cup-shaped stick nests on branches

Check trunks for woodpecker cavities

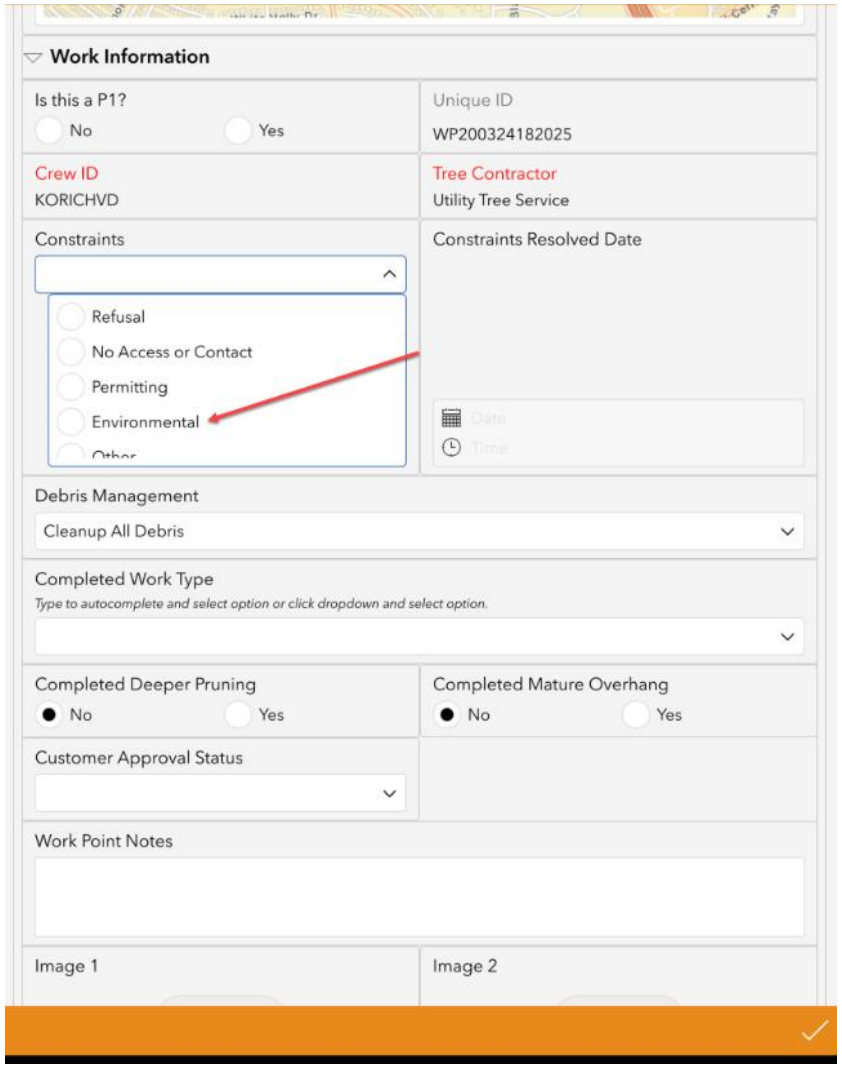
Scan ground for burrows, rock nests, nests in grasses

Be aware of agitated parent birds alerting you that you're working near an active nest!

What do you do if you find an active nest in your work area?

- Stop work and contact your Vegetation Management Senior Specialist
- Move at least 200 feet away from the nest to continue work at another location.
- A biologist will contact you requesting additional information (e.g., where is the nest, text a photo of the nest if you can, what do you see inside of the nest, what work do you still need to do, etc.).
- Follow the Biologist's guidance for next steps (e.g., you may need to move closer or farther away from the nest, meet with a monitor on-site if needed, etc.).
- If an on-site monitor is required, they will check the nest activity and work with you to avoid harming the nest.

Adding a Work Point Constraint in Survey123



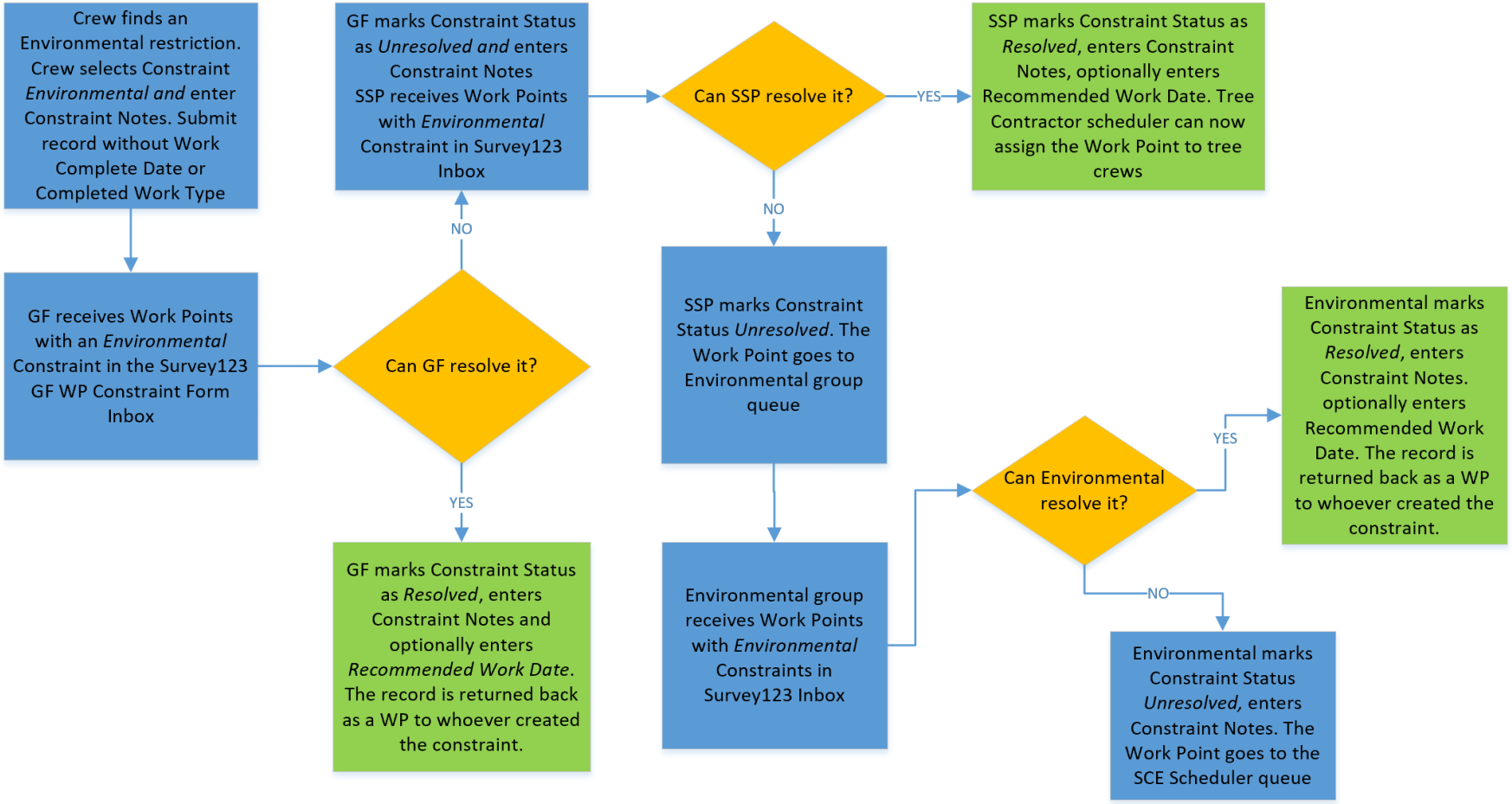
Add Constraint Notes!

Examples:
- Owl nest with 3 eggs ~30 feet up in tree
- Unknown bird, bird was building nest ~30 feet up in tree
- Nest with eggs located ~30 feet from ground near tree trunk. See photo.
- Work location within nest buffer. Per ESD, expected fledge date March 25, 2020.

Call the SSP and ESD for immediate support and follow up with a Constraint in Survey 123 as needed.

Add constraints to surrounding trees within any nest buffer areas.

Environmental Constraint Process in Survey123



What if you find a dead bird in the work area?

- Eagle – Contact (833) SCE-2ENC and ask for the On-Call biologist immediately. Removing a dead eagle requires special permits and procedures.
- Other Birds – Please contact your Senior Specialist.

Snap a pic!

Standard Environmental Requirements

Photo: Marla Knight, USDA Forest Service

STOP

If impacts occur, stop work immediately and contact your supervisor and Environmental Services at 833-723-2362

Wetland/Water Resources

Wetland/Water Resources

- Wetland/water resources are:
  - Wet or dry features
  - Vegetation growing in or next to these areas (riparian vegetation)
- Wetland/water resources are protected by State and Federal laws
  - Ground disturbance or removal/trimming of riparian vegetation may require permitting

Drainage/Channel may be dry!

Standard Requirements for Working Near Water Resources

- Keep out of drainage (wet or dry)
- No ground disturbance allowed near water features (wet or dry)
- Vehicles and wheeled/tracked equipment must stay on existing roadways
- Vehicles and heavy equipment not allowed in wetted meadows; when found contact your Vegetation Management Senior Specialist
- **DO NOT** remove trees unless authorized (check your Environmental Requirements found in Fulcrum or provided by your Scheduler or SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist)
- **DO NOT** remove tree roots
- Fell away from drainages and water features
- **DO NOT** bridge trees across drainages or other water features without approval
- Any wood debris that falls into the drainage will be removed by hand
- **No chipping** allowed within drainages
- **DO NOT** endline within drainages or other water features
- Refuel and conduct maintenance outside of drainages and wetted areas **only**

How would a crew conduct work in this area?

How about in this area?

And this area?

Cultural/Archaeological Resources

Cultural/Archaeological Resources

Cultural/archaeological resources are protected by law.

- Look out for glass, cans, ceramics, stone tools, arrowheads, chippings, flakes, mortars, beads, rock art, fossils, and bones

If you are working near cultural resources, you must follow specific measures to avoid impacts. **Always refer to the Environmental Requirements** found in Fulcrum/Survey123 or provided by your Scheduler or SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist

STOP

If you encounter a cultural resource or bones, stop work immediately and contact your supervisor and SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist. Do not disturb the resource or disclose its location to the public.

Public Lands

<u>Where</u> you work impacts *how* you work

Private Land

- Standard Environmental Requirements
- Use existing roads, where possible

Public Land

- Standard Environmental Requirements, plus agency permit/authorization requirements provided by ESD or agency
- Approval may be required for certain types of work and access

So… where are you working?

HTMP 2.0

32691563-513, 36-48, Oak

Control Number	32691563-513
180-day Expiration Date	July 12, 2020
Expiration Date with Constraints	December 11, 2020
Photos	

SCE General Information

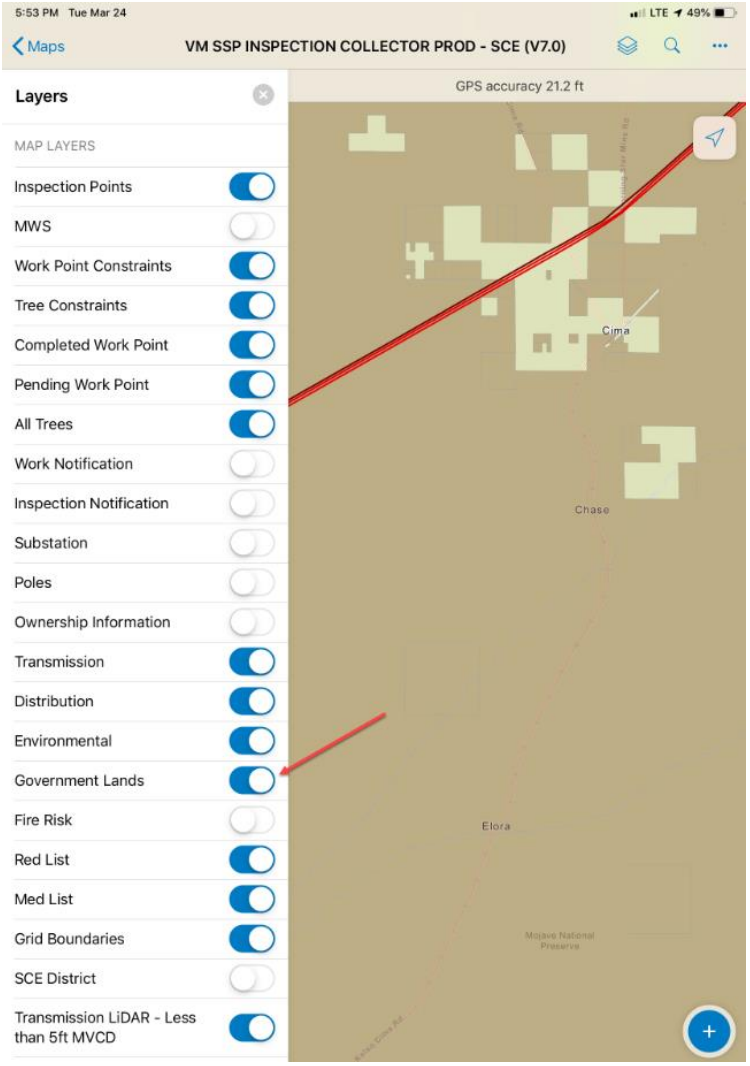
High Fire Threat District? *	Yes
District, Circuit, Grid *	Shaver Lake_50 ▸ STEVENSON_17010 ▸ Grid 204
Voltage *	2.4-21kV (distribution)

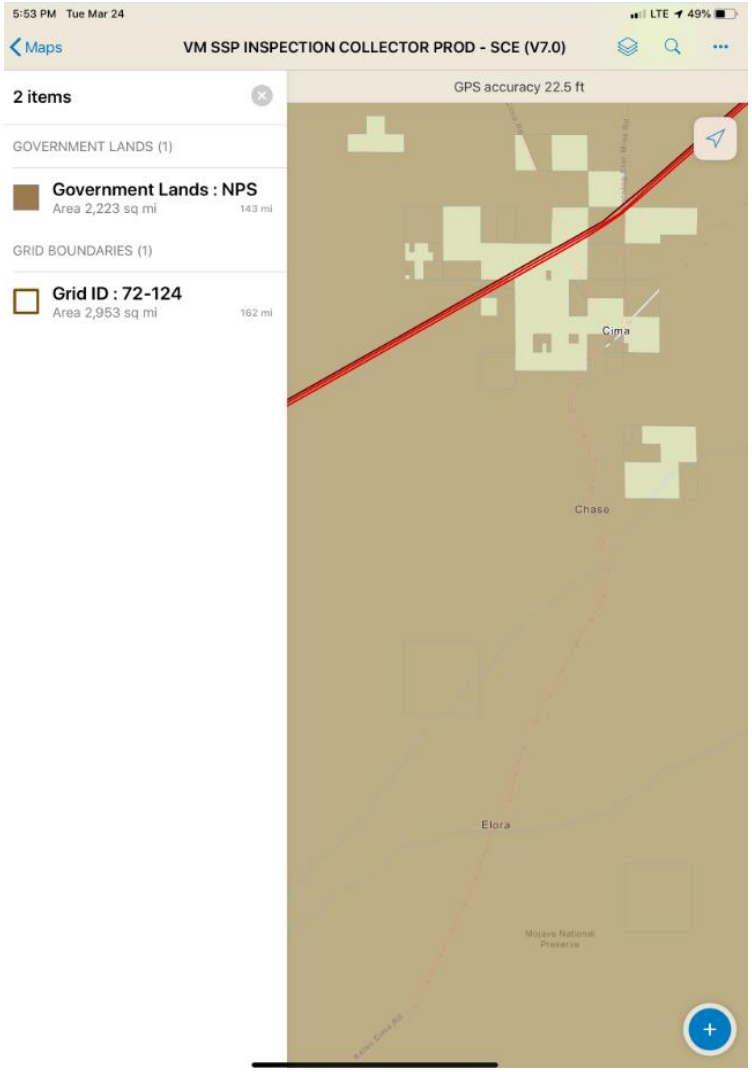
Customer Information

Property Type *	USFS Sierra National Forest

- Check Fulcrum or Survey123
- Ask your scheduler or SSP

Government Lands Layer in Collector





Know Your Access! Plan for Changing Conditions!

<u>Private Lands</u>

- Stay on existing roads to the extent possible
- Limit travel overland or on dirt roads when conditions are wet to prevent ruts

<u>Public Lands</u>

- Stay on existing roads
- Do not create ruts
- Agency approval may be required for overland travel (roads that are not Forest Service or Utility Roads).

MSUP Requirements

<u>Treatment of Cut Vegetation and Timber</u>

- Removal of cut vegetation/timber from Forest Service lands is **ILLEGAL** unless authorized by the Forest Service
- Giving cut vegetation/timber from Forest Service lands to the public is **ILLEGAL** unless authorized by the Forest Service
- Brushing, trimming, and tree removal will be lopped and scattered, chipped on-site, or removed off-site per direction of the Forest Service.
- In certain sensitive biological resource areas, chipping will be spread and scattered to no more than 1 inch in depth

MSUP and NPS SUP Requirements

Agency Fire Plan

- Comply with each Forest's Project Activity Level (PAL) activity and use restrictions
- MSUP requires specific tool and equipment on-site fire prevention and suppression
- No smoking during fire season, except in designated smoking areas
- Forest Service Dispatch Center must be contacted within 15 minutes of discovery of a fire in the work area
- Maintain minimum 10' slope distance clearance of all fuels and logging debris for equipment listed in California State Law (e.g., welding equipment, stationary log loaders, yarders, etc.), storage and parking areas (e.g., equipment service areas, parking areas, gas/oil storage, internal combustion engine sites).

Emergency Work on Public Lands or in an ESA

If the situation presents an immediate threat to public safety, electric reliability, or property:

Work may proceed

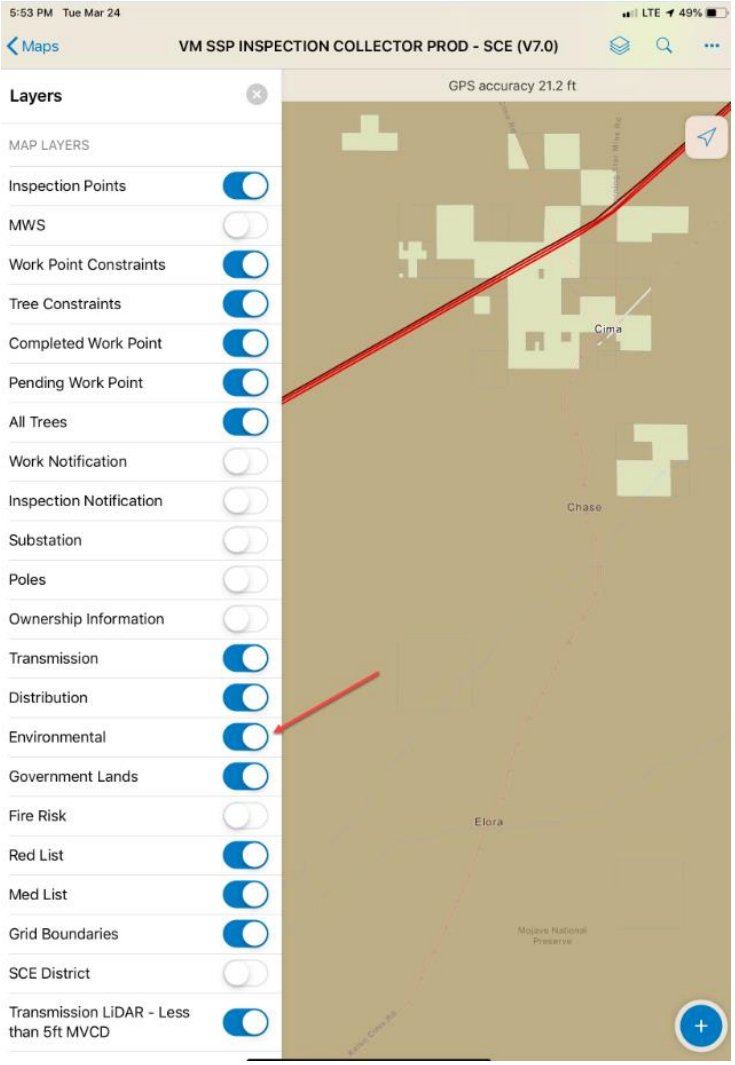
In parallel, determine if work involves:

1. Tree trimming or removal in environmentally sensitive area (VM ESA); or
2. Tree removal on public lands (i.e. U.S. Forest Service, State Parks, National Parks, Bureau of Land Management, etc.).

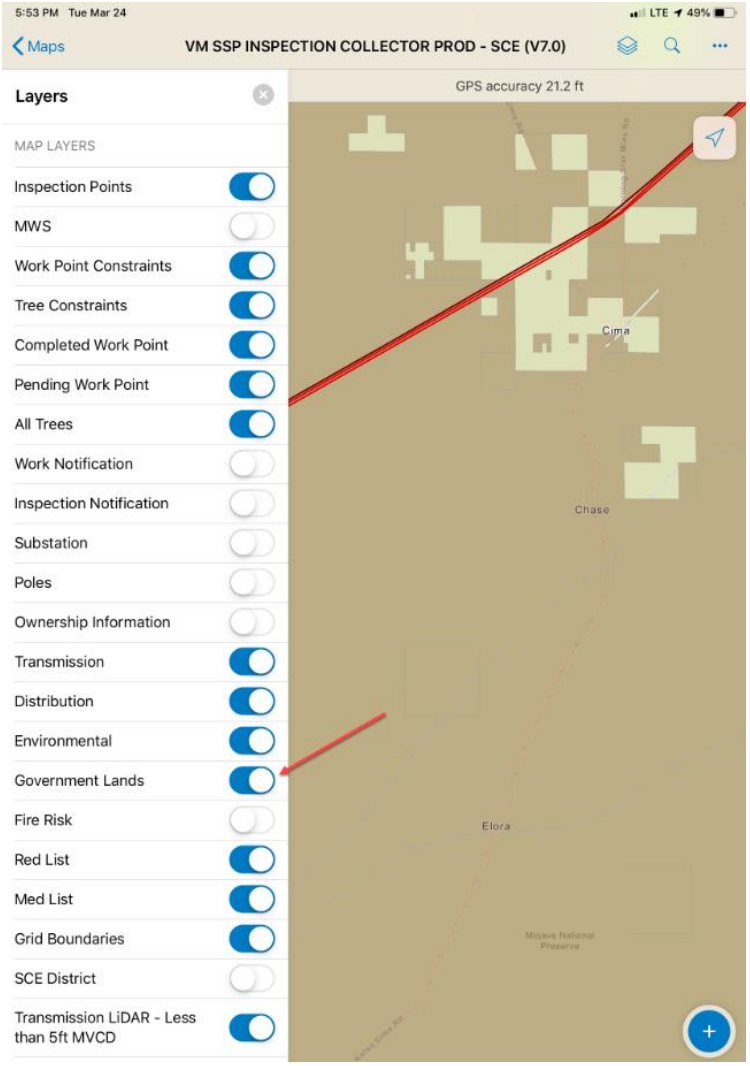
If so:

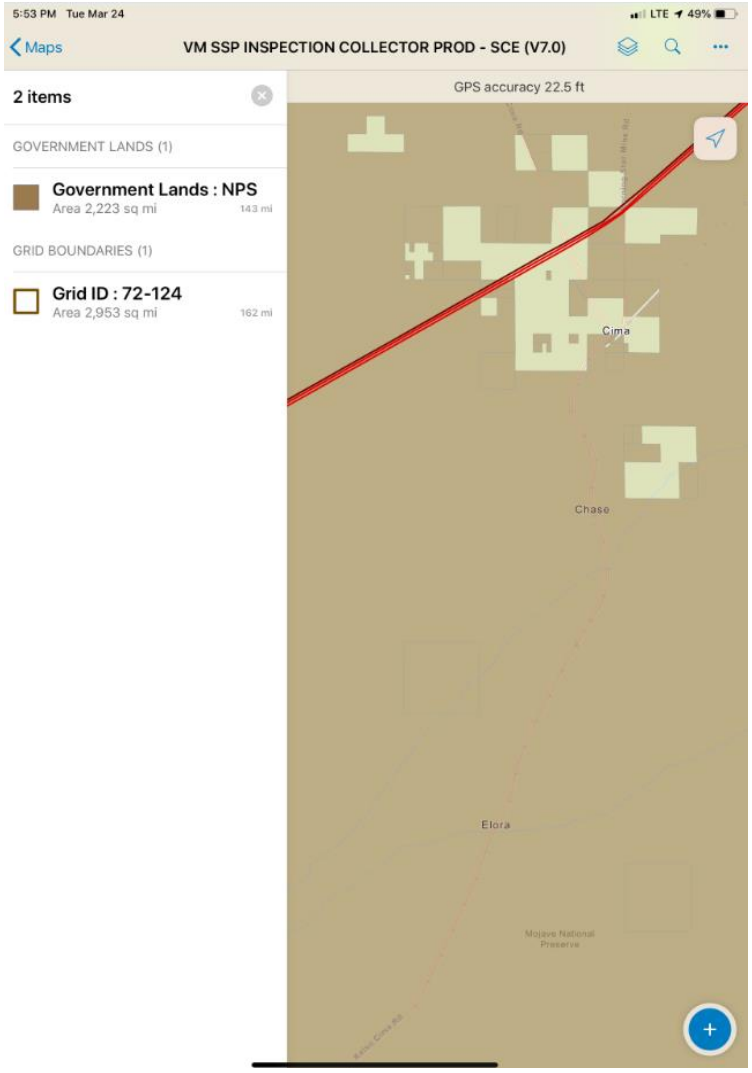
- Call **(833) SCE-2ENC**
- Contact SCE Government Lands (for work on public lands)

ESA Layer in Collector



Government Lands Layer in Collector





Key Takeaways

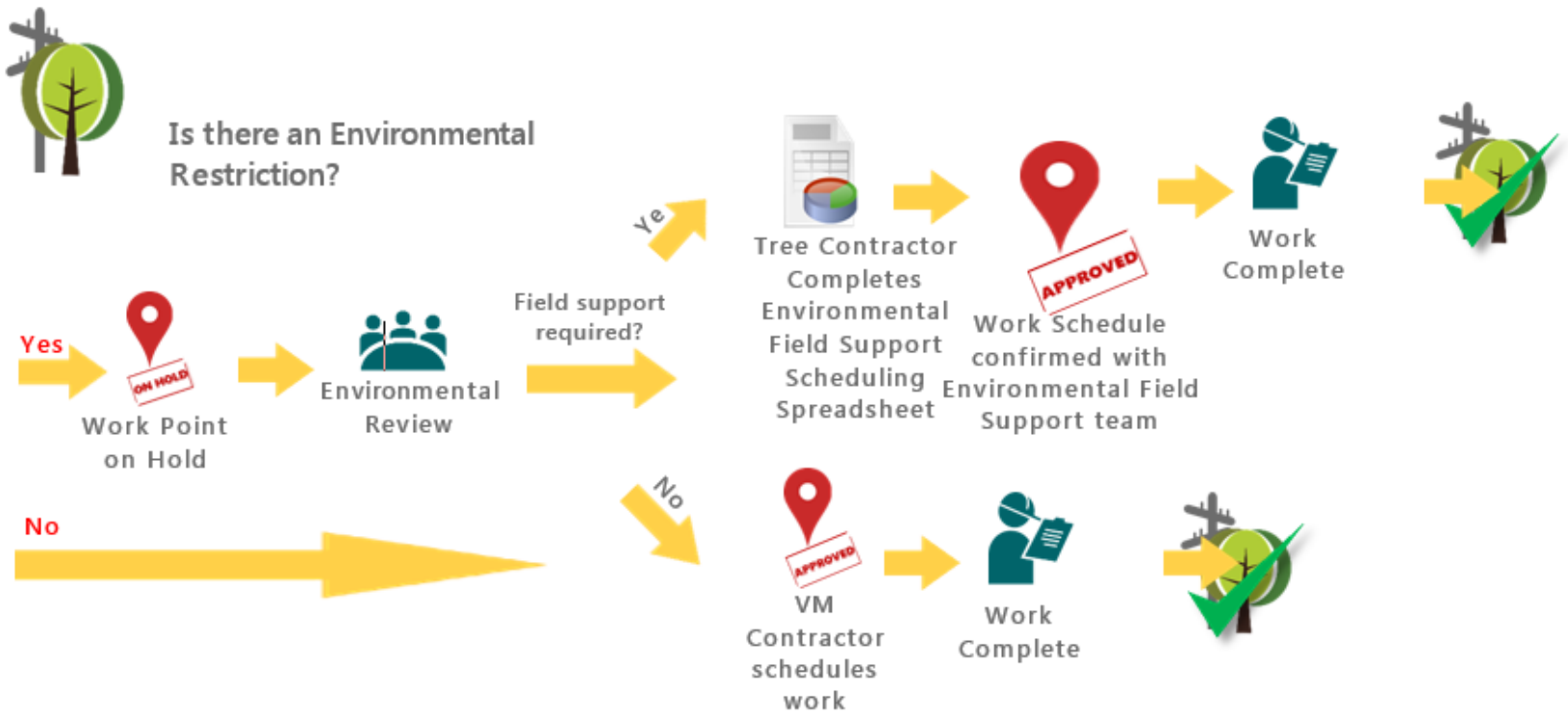
- When in doubt contact your Vegetation Management Senior Specialist!
  - Senior Specialist will reach out to the Environmental group
- Know your Environmental Requirements before beginning work. If unsure, check Fulcrum, Survey123, Scheduler, SCE Vegetation Management Senior Specialist, or email.
- Check your work area and keep an eye out for active nests, other wildlife, and marked ESAs.
- Working on public lands has special requirements. Ask questions!
- Standard Environmental Requirements hand out

Questions?

Survey123 Process

- Overview of Environmental Screening Process
- What is an "Environmental Restriction"
- Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Layer
- Environmental Review Process
- Environmental Requirements
- Scheduling work with Environmental Pre-activity Surveys, Monitoring, or Other Requirements
- Vegetation Management Environmental Field Support Request Spreadsheet
- Environmental Compliance for work created by the tree crews in the field via Survey123 Add On form and Collector Create Work Existing Trees Map
- Environmental Constraint Process in Survey123

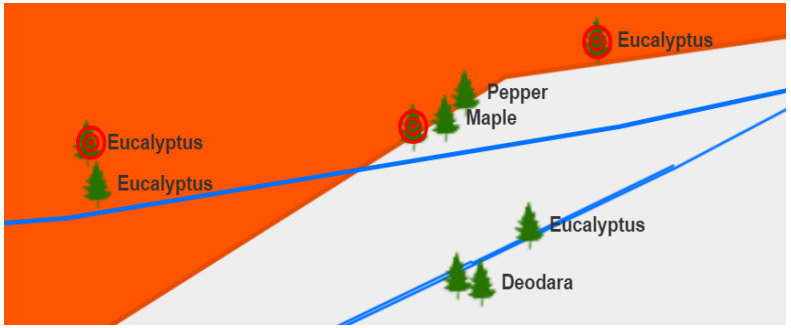
Environmental Screening Process



What is an "Environmental Restriction"?

<u>Vegetation Work Point is:</u>

- Located within the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) layer, and/or
- Located on Public Lands (e.g., State/Federal) and involves:
  - Tree Removal
    - Palm Removal
    - Wood Tree Removal
  - Brush Trim/Removal

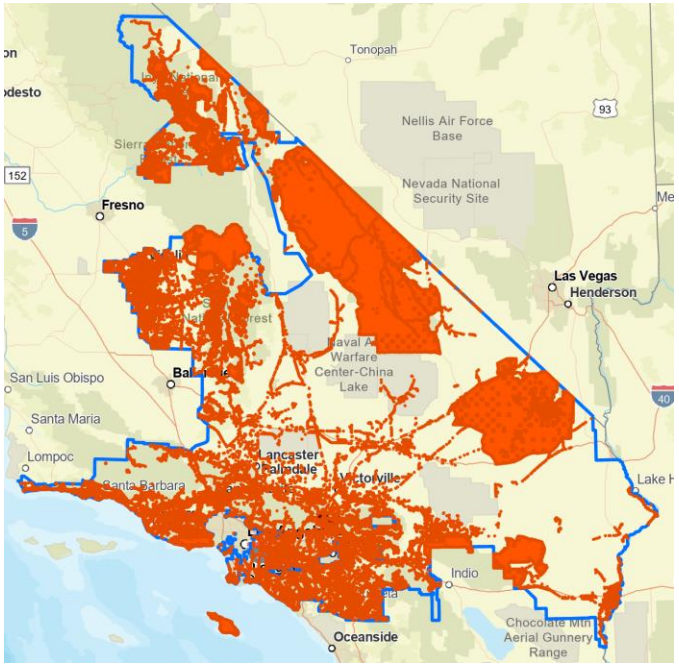


Public Land Agency Authorization Required for Removal Activities

Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Layer

Includes Sensitive Areas for:

- Biological resources
- Waters/Wetlands resources
- FERC/Generation Project Licensing Requirements
- Select Local Coastal Plans
- Restoration sites
- Invasive plants on U.S. Forest Service lands

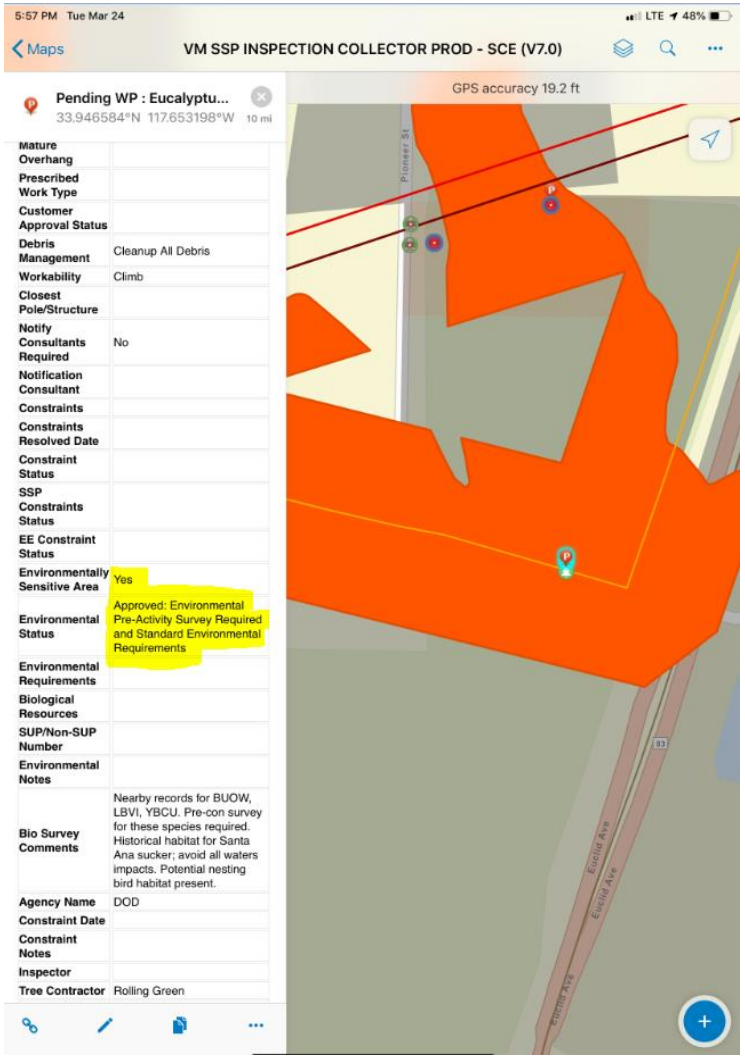


ESA Layer Replaces the Riparian Alert Areas

What is the Environmental Review Process in Survey123?

- Work Points with **Environmental Restrictions** are put on hold.
- **Environmental Status** changes to **Environmental Review in Progress**. Work cannot proceed until environmental review is completed.
- **Environmental Status** changes to **On Hold** when:
  - Agency authorization is required
  - Environmental permits may be required
  - Further internal coordination is needed due to environmental resource risks
- When environmental review is completed and any permits/approvals received, **Environmental Requirements** are assigned as:
  - ***Standard Environmental Requirements***
  - ***Pre-Activity Survey Required*** and Standard Environmental Requirements
  - ***Monitor Required*** and Standard Environmental Requirements
  - ***Other***
- **Environmental Status** changes to **Approved** and the work is assigned to the Tree Trimming Contractor.

Survey123 Collector – Pending Work Location



Scheduling Work in Approved Environmental Status

- If the work point **DOES NOT** require an Environmental Pre-Activity Survey, Monitor, or Other the Contractor can schedule/complete work in accordance with **Standard Environmental Requirements**.
- If Work Point requires an Environmental Pre-Activity Survey, Monitor, or Other, **Contact Environmental** will be marked **Yes**
- Tree Contractor scheduler will complete the ***VM Environmental Field Support Request*** spreadsheet and provide to SCE Environmental Clearance team in advance as indicated in **Contact Calendar Days in Advance** to coordinate a pre-activity survey and/or monitor.
- Work is performed on agreed upon date and in compliance with SCE Environmental Clearance team Pre-Activity Survey, Monitoring, and/or Other requirements.
- There is potential for scheduling delays if additional coordination/scheduling is required (e.g., environmental specialist required, seasonal resource restrictions, potential resource impacts based on pre-activity survey results, etc.).

VM Environmental Field Support Request Spreadsheet

- Work Point must have **Environmental Status** marked as **Approved** before it is released to Tree Contractors to schedule and complete work.
- Work Point schedule must be submitted to SCE Environmental Clearance Team in advance as indicated in **Contact Calendar Days in Advance** per **Environmental Requirements**.

Date/Schedule for Work Point				Tree Crew Information			
Crew Scheduled Date	Contact Calendar Days in Advance Required (per Environmental Requirements)	Date Confirmed by SCE Environmental Clearance Team	Duration to Complete Work (indicate hours or days)	Contractor	Crew Number (e.g., 001)	General Foreman Name and Cell #	Foreman Name and Cell #

Work Location										Environmental Field Support Coordination	
SCE District	Circuit	Street Address	City	Closest Pole/Structure (Survey123)	Latitude	Longitude	Tree Species	Prescribed Work Type	Number of Trees	Crew Start Time	Meet Location for Crew and Environmental Field Staff Support

For Pre-Activity Surveys, Monitoring, or Other Requirements

Send VM Environmental Field Support Request spreadsheet Environmental Clearance designees as directed

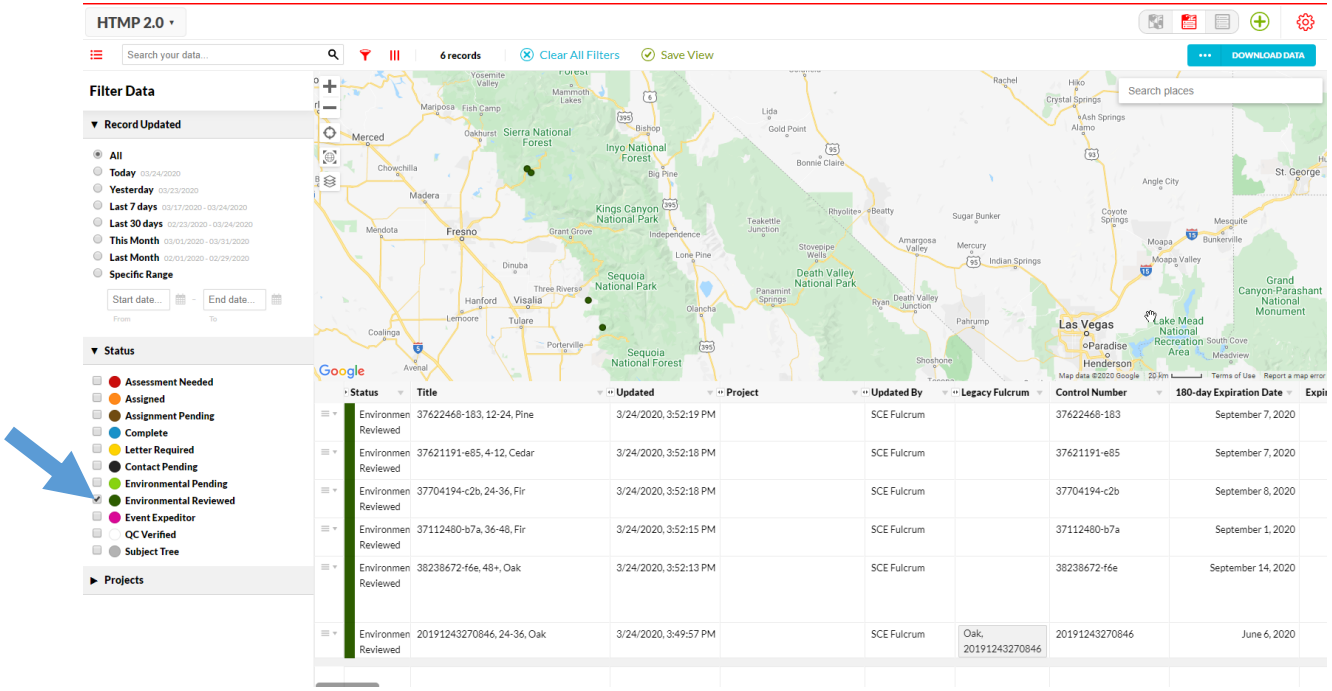
Environmental Compliance Process for work created by the tree crews in the field via Survey123 Add On form and Collector Create Work Existing Trees map

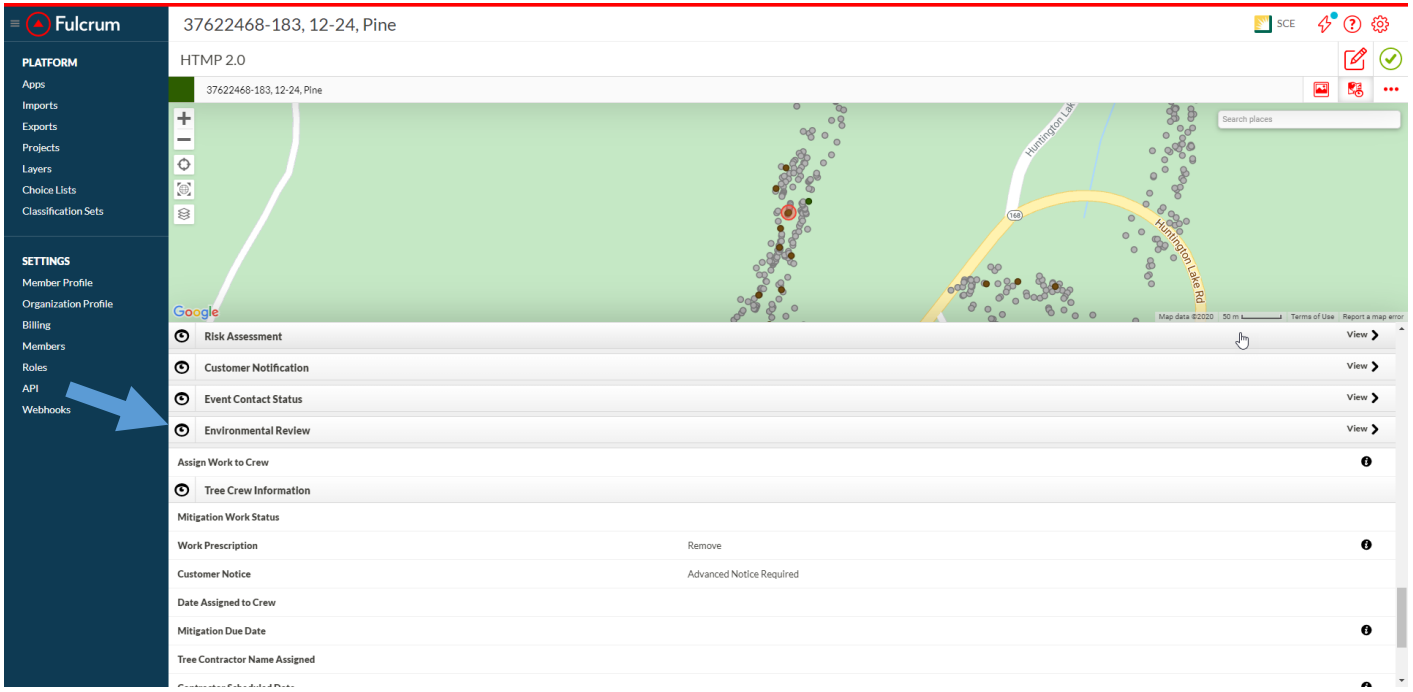
- Check if the tree is located within the **ESA layer**. If within ESA:
  - Check Environmental Requirements for Work Point(s) within 100 feet of the tree where work is being added and implement the same **Environmental Requirements.**
  - If there are no work point within 100 feet, create the new work point and select ***Environmental*** under **Constraints**. Do not proceed with work until the environmental review is complete.
- If tree requires **Removal** or **Brush/Trim Removal** and is on **Public Lands**, create the new work point and select Environmental under Constraints. Do not proceed with work until the environmental review is complete.
- If tree does not involve any of the above,

tree crew may proceed with work

Contact SCE Environmental Clearance Team to coordinate

HTMP Environmental Review Identification




Fulcrum
PLATFORM
Apps
Imports
Exports
Projects
Layers
Choice Lists
Classification Sets
SETTINGS
Member Profile
Organization Profile
Billing
Members
Roles
API
Webhooks
37622468-183, 12-24, Pine
SCE
HTMP 2.0
37622468-183, 12-24, Pine
Search places
Huntington Lake Rd
166
Google
Map data ©2020
50 m
Terms of Use
Report a map error
Risk Assessment
View
Customer Notification
View
Event Contact Status
View
Environmental Review
View
Assign Work to Crew
Tree Crew Information
Mitigation Work Status
Work Prescription
Remove
Customer Notice
Advanced Notice Required
Date Assigned to Crew
Mitigation Due Date
Tree Contractor Name Assigned

Environmental Requirements in Fulcrum - HTMP

HTMP 2.0

20191228563976, 12-24, Pine / Environmental Review

Environmental Status	Approved, no monitor required
Biological Concern	3. Sensitive species on site
Environmental SUP Info	MSUP_00089_SNF_VM_HTMP_IIB
Environmental Notes	RPM SNRF-1; BE BMP Mammal-1; General Measures and BMPs Apply.No W/W concerns. Standard Waters BMPs apply.

Constraints (environmental)

Constraint 1	MSUP Pending Approval
Constraint 1 Start Date	January 1, 2020
Constraint 1 End Date	February 6, 2020

Environmental Requirements in Fulcrum – DRI/BB

DRI (Drought Resolution Initiative) / BB (Bark Beetle)

Untitled

Environmental Review

MSUP Number	MSUP_VM_DRI-BB_SNF_0020_IIB
Non-MSUP Number	
Environmental Review Receive Date	July 1, 2019
Environmental Review Overall Status	Approved, biological monitor required
Environmental Review Completion Date	August 29, 2019
Environmental Hold Start Date	
Environmental Hold Reason	
Environmental Hold Release Date	August 23, 2019
Environmental Comments	A Wetlands/Waters Monitor is required to provide an environmental tailboard to review restrictive waters measures with the crew prior to construction, flag the resource for avoidance, apply additional restrictive measures where applicable, and monitor adherence to the measures (as needed). Fac-6; Fac-9; Road-4; Road-9; Road-10; Veg-2; and Standard Waters BMPs apply. Tree occurs 25-ft southeast of a ephemeral drainage based on a habitat assessment survey of the tree removal location and associated work area. Crew Check (No Bio Monitor Needed). BMPs Apply