

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 11, 2018

Lori Charpentier
Project Manager
Major Environmental Projects
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA, 91770

RE: Valley South Subtransmission Project: Minor Project Change #1

Dear Ms. Charpentier,

On December 20, 2018, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted Minor Project Change (MPC) Request #1 to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Leon Road realignment between Ano Crest Road and Holland at the request of the developer of a planned new subdivision. SCE is proposing to reconfigure an approximately 0.8-mile segment of the proposed Project in order to accommodate proposed housing tracts and the related realignment of Leon Road. The proposed realignment includes 2 tubular steel poles (TSPs), 9 guyed wood poles, 6 span-guyed wood poles, 8 un-guyed wood poles, and 7 guy stub poles, all located in Western Riverside County. Under this MPC Request, SCE is seeking CPUC authorization to proceed with the proposed Project realignment associated with the Leon Road realignment.

SCE's Valley South Subtransmission Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The mitigation measures described in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) were adopted by the CPUC as conditions of project approvals. The CPUC voted on December 1, 2016 to approve SCE's Valley South Subtransmission Project (Decision 16-12-001) and a Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2015051012). The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the Valley South Subtransmission Project during implementation.

MPCs are reviewed for consistency with CEQA requirements and are located within the geographic boundary of the project study area. MPCs do not create new or substantially more severe significant impacts, or conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy. Also, they do not trigger other permit requirements unless the appropriate agency has approved the change, and clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this MPC, including the mitigation measure requirements. The evaluation process ensures that all mitigation measures applicable to the location and activities covered in the MPC are implemented, as required in the CPUC's Decision.

MPC #1 for the Leon Road realignment is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

CPUC Evaluation of Minor Project Change Request

In accordance with the MMCRP, the request for MPC #1 was reviewed by CPUC to confirm that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested MPC activities. Impacts associated with the realignment are equal to or less than those associated with the original alignment proposed in the FEIR. All applicable avoidance/minimization measures identified in the FEIR Appendix 6 Mitigation Monitoring Plan will be followed. The following discussion summarizes the supplemental analysis for biological and cultural resources conducted for the MPC request. The proposed MPC request would not result in any changes to impacts or required mitigation for other issue areas, including aesthetics, air quality, noise, traffic/transportation, and water resources.

Biological Resources: A Habitat Assessment for biological resources at the Leon Road realignment was conducted on October 4, 2018. The results of the Habitat Assessment show that no State or federally listed plant or wildlife species were observed. One CNPS-listed plant, paniculate tarplant, was observed at the north end of the Realignment east of Leon Road. No other special-status plant or wildlife species were observed, and no nests were observed. Suitable habitat for burrowing owl, Stephen's kangaroo rat, among other special status-species was documented throughout the Realignment survey area. Although no burrowing owls or sign were observed during the habitat assessment, there is potential for this species to occur based on the presence of suitable habitat, and burrowing owls have been documented during previous VSSP surveys. Focused surveys for rare plants (primarily smooth tarplant) and burrowing owl are recommended in compliance with MSHCP Section 6.3.2. No other focused surveys for other special status species are recommended.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources: SCE provided an Addendum to the Cultural Resources Survey Report for the proposed Valley South 115 Subtransmission Project Leon Road realignment dated October 2016. A total of two cultural resources were identified within the proposed realignment area. Recommendations for cultural resource monitoring (archaeological and native American) have been made for work within the realignment area adjacent to the two resources. In addition, the requirements of the Cultural Resources Management Plan will apply. The Leon Road realignment occurs in the same paleontological sensitive substrate as the original alignment and monitoring for paleontological resources will be conducted according to the Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Management Plan.


Conditions of MPC Approval

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors prior to the start of construction:

- All applicable project mitigation measures, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this MPC #1 shall be made available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- **BIO-4:** Prior to the site mobilization activities and the removal of any vegetation, SCE shall prepare a Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan (HRMP); the plan must be approved by the CPUC prior to the start of mobilization activities.
- **BIO-7:** The revised Nesting Bird Management Plan shall be reviewed and approved by CPUC prior to vegetation clearing.
- **CR-2:** No construction or site mobilization may occur until the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) has been approved by the CPUC.
- **CR-9:** No construction or site mobilization may occur until the Paleontological Resources Mitigation and Management Plan (PRMMP) has been approved by the CPUC.

- **GEO-1:** No construction or site mobilization may occur until the geotechnical study results and proposed solutions to mitigate liquefaction have been approved by the CPUC.
- **GEO-2:** No construction or site mobilization may occur until the geotechnical study results and proposed solutions to mitigate expansive or corrosive soil conditions have been approved by the CPUC.
- **HAZ-1:** No construction or site mobilization may occur until the geotechnical study results and proposed solutions to mitigate expansive or corrosive soil conditions have been approved by the CPUC.
- **HAZ-1:** SCE shall provide documentation of compliance with HAZ-1 (identify pesticide/herbicide contamination) prior to construction and site mobilization in lands historically used for agriculture.
- **HYD-1:** SCE shall provide documentation of compliance with HYD-1 (use non-potable water) prior to construction and site mobilization.
- **TRA-1:** SCE to provide local jurisdiction approval of the Construction Traffic Control Plan to the CPUC prior to construction.
- **TRA-2:** SCE shall provide all FAA determinations to the CPUC prior to the installation of affected structures.
- **TRA-3:** SCE shall provide documentation of compliance with TRA-3 (repair roadways and transportation facilities damaged by construction) prior to construction and site mobilization.

Sincerely,



Eric Chiang
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen