STATE OF CALIFORNIA ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

August 12, 2008

Donald Johnson
Project Manager
Southern California Edison
2131 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, C 911770

RE: SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1, Section 1 – Variance Request #7

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On August 12, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting the use of a Wire Site Setup (puller/tensioner site) in a 200 foot by 400 foot flat area between Construction Towers 11 and 12 along the SCE right-of-way for the Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Line Project (Segment 1, Section 1). This site is located east of McBean Parkway in the City of Santa Clarita. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- After further review, wire pulling plans have been adjusted to shorter pull lengths that now require the use of the flat area, approximately 200 by 400 feet, between Construction Towers 11 and 12. The use of this site will minimize the initial impact intended for the area surrounding Construction Tower 16, which was the original pull site that has since been broken into two pulls originating from the proposed site between Construction Towers 11 and 12. The Wire Site Setup will maintain all necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) and wire installation will take place once ground disturbance activities have commenced in this area.

- A Supplemental Archaeological Assessment, Antelope to Pardee Segment 1 (Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project) report was prepared by Cogstone Resources Management Inc., August 2008 for the variance request area. Searches for archaeological and historic records were completed at the South Central Coast Information Center (Schmidt et al. 2008). The record search included the SCE right-of-way and a quarter-mile perimeter. The site and survey maps and records were checked in addition to the National Register of Historic Places, the California Historic Resources Inventory, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and topographic maps. No known sites were found to be within the project area of impact. A pedestrian survey was also conducted in transects that varied between 10 to 15 meters in width.

- A letter to Tracey Alsobrook (SCE) from Brian Arnold (Burns & McDonnell) dated August 5, 2008, documents the results of focused surveys for special interest plant species, nesting birds, sensitive reptiles and amphibians, small mammal burrow concentrations, burrowing owls, and American badger, and the proposed Construct 11 Wire Site Setup (WSS) in the City of Santa Clarita for the SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Line Project (Segment 1, Section 1). Biological field surveys were conducted several times during July and August 2008 by Burns & McDonnell Associate Biologist, Brian W. Arnold, and BRC Biologist, Charlene Burge. The two most recent surveys were conducted July 24th and August 5th, 2008. None of the target special interest plant and wildlife species were discovered during these biological clearance surveys.

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- All project mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented during construction activities. Some measures are 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 Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.

- If breeding birds with active nests are found, a biological monitor shall establish a 300-foot buffer around the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails. The 300-foot buffer may be adjusted to reflect existing conditions including ambient noise and disturbance only with the approval of the CDFG and/or USFWS (please note that the CPUC must be notified prior to the onset of construction). The biological monitor shall conduct regular monitoring of the nest to determine success/failure and to ensure that project activities are not conducted within the buffer until the nesting cycle is complete or the nest fails. If nesting birds move into the work area SCE will monitor the nest to ensure that their activities do not result in the loss or failure of the nest. A preliminary 300-foot buffer area around the nest will be established and SCE shall coordinate with the CPUC, CDFG and/or USFWS.

- After use, all areas proposed under this variance shall be completely restored to preexisting conditions following the construction activities.

- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including crane, haul truck and concrete truck drivers shall be appropriately WEAP trained on environmental issues including protocols for air quality, hazardous materials, biological resources, known and unanticipated cultural materials, as well as SWPPP BMPs. A log shall be maintained on-site with the names of all crew personnel trained.

- All work boundaries shall be flagged prior to construction. No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen