

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

September 5, 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 Project – Variance Request #9

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On August 19, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Variance Request seeking authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for use of the Veluzat Movie Ranch Landing Zone Yard as a helicopter staging area. Additional information was provided on August 28th and September 4th. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

The Veluzat Movie Ranch Landing Zone Yard site is located on Pettinger Canyon Road, about one mile from its junction with upper Haskell Canyon for the SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Line Project, Segment 1, which will pass through Los Angeles County. The location of this landing zone is approximately 0.40 miles northwest of DC 66kV Wreck Out Tower 7/1, which makes it an ideal location for helicopter staging operations. SCE plans to utilize the Veluzat Movie Ranch Landing Zone Yard from August 2008 through June 2009 for construction of Segments 1, 2, and 3.

The proposed landing zone area includes an existing, approximately 55-foot by 50-foot paved helicopter pad. In addition, a small previously disturbed area measuring approximately 20 feet in width by approximately 40 feet in length located adjacent to and directly north of the paved pad will be used by the tanker truck, and access will consist of driving over about 190 feet of previously disturbed non-native grassland area from the existing dirt Pettinger Canyon Road up to the northwestern edge of the paved pad, and a small egress area (about 13 feet in length) exiting from the southeast corner of the paved pad down to Pettinger Canyon Road. General access to the canyon will occur along approximately one mile of the existing east-west trending dirt Pettinger Canyon Road that provides the primary access from the main gate of the Veluzat Movie Ranch at Haskell Canyon to the movie sets up-canyon to the east.

The area immediately surrounding the existing helicopter landing pad is relatively flat, and is characterized by non-native grassland vegetation. A Conex box used for storage of movie ranch supplies is located within about 30 feet along the entire eastern side of the existing landing pad. The toe of a steep slope is located within about 30 feet northeast and northwest of the existing pad. This slope supports mixed chaparral vegetation. An east-west trending drainage feature is located just over 50 feet south of the southern edge of the existing landing pad. Several mature coast live oak trees occur around the area, including some within 50 feet of the existing landing pad.

Proposed activities at the site include: water truck and water trailer staging; helicopter landing and fueling; staging of vehicles, equipment and materials; and personnel loading zone. Helicopter use is proposed to pick up and drop off personnel and relatively small equipment.

Fueling will take place at the furthest point from the existing east-west trending drainage that crosses the site south of the landing pad. The fuel truck will be driven into a mobile spill containment device in order to capture any type of unforeseen spill. In addition, a double-walled fuel truck will be in use and associated spill supplies will be on hand at all times.

The existing east-west trending drainage will also have straw wattles and absorbent socks protecting it for approximately 150-feet in length, parallel to the landing zone site. Staking will be done along the road's edge with rope and signage stating that the area is restricted. In addition, all crews and personnel in/out of the area will be notified of the restriction, as well as continuous monitoring of the area during construction activities.

Preconstruction Biological Clearance Surveys were conducted June 26, July 26, and August 14 by Burns & McDonnell biologists at the Veluzat Movie Ranch Landing Zone Yard including focused surveys for special interest plant species, nesting birds, sensitive reptiles and amphibians, small mammal burrow concentrations, burrowing owls, American badger, roosting bats and all other sensitive wildlife species. A single coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) was observed within 25 feet north of the northern edge of pavement of the existing helicopter landing pad. In addition, an old nest is located in a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) tree. This nest is not currently active, and appears to be in a state of disrepair. This nest will not be removed, and no nesting birds will be disturbed.

According to Adam Sriro, SCE Archaeologist, in an email dated June 18, 2008, "Based on the negative results for the 66kV wreck out locations records search (Way 5/6/08), and the fact that the proposed LZ has already been paved over, with no ground disturbance proposed, it is anticipated that the potential to encounter previously unrecorded cultural resources is low. As a result, no further archaeological study is required at this time".

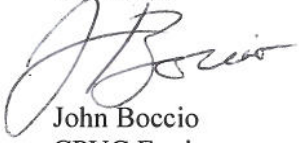
The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- 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.
- Biological surveys shall be re-conducted and results submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to equipment and vehicles mobilizing to the yard. After complete surveys have been submitted and approved by the CPUC, site occupation can occur; however, if occupation does not occur within seven calendar days of survey submittals, biological clearance sweeps shall be conducted prior to site occupation, including nesting bird surveys.
- SCE has assigned Biological Monitors to the Project. They are responsible for ensuring that impacts to special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, or unique resources are minimized to the fullest extent possible. The Biological Monitor shall be on-site to monitor all work and shall conduct sweeps of the approved areas which will be impacted. 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.

- If the work schedule changes and night work is scheduled, SCE shall consult with CDFG regarding any impacts that night work may inflict on nearby wildlife (i.e. roosting bats, birds). Documentation of consultation with CDFG shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to the commencement of construction activities.
- After use, all areas proposed under this Variance shall be completely restored to preexisting conditions following the construction activities.
- If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- If not already provided, copies of all landowner agreements/lease agreements shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to use.
- 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.
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be implemented at all times during the use and occupation of the yard, as will Best Management Practices. Implementation of all necessary erosion control devices will be properly installed and maintained throughout the duration of yard use. A copy of the SWPPP will be available on-site for reference. A Hazardous Substance Spill Control Plan has been prepared that includes conditions pertaining to this yard. Fueling will take place from saddle tanks or fuel trucks with appropriate containment measures take to avoid spills. Fuel trucks will not be parked overnight nor will more than 1,320 gallons of fuel or oil be stored on site.
- All open flame activities will be prohibited at all times; including but not limited to welding, torch work, and smoking.
- The Fugitive Dust Control Plan (Mitigation Measure A-1a) shall be implemented at the yard. Equipment on site will not be idled for more than 10 minutes. Use of equipment will be conducted according to the air quality mitigation measures specified in the Final EIR/EIS. If track out occurs, it will be removed before the end of the day per the guidelines established in the Fugitive Dust Emissions Control Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Boccio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Boccio".

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen