

# **Addendum**

DISTRIBUTION LINE REALIGNMENT AND  
ADDITION OF FOUR DISTRIBUTION POLES SUPPORTING  
SEGMENT 7 66KV RE-ROUTE/RELOCATION

**ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S APPLICATION FOR THE**

## **Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project**

Application No. A.07-06-031

SCH No. 2007081156

Prepared By:



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## Table of Contents

<b>A.</b>	<b>Introduction and Background</b> .....	1
<b>B.</b>	<b>Overview of the Approved Project</b> .....	1
<b>C.</b>	<b>Modifications to the Project</b> .....	2
<b>D.</b>	<b>Evaluation of Modification</b> .....	3
	D.1 Issue Areas Where Modifications Result in a Potential Change.....	4
	D.2 Issue Areas Where Modifications Result in No Change.....	6
<b>E.</b>	<b>Other CEQA Considerations</b> .....	6
	E.1 Significant Unavoidable Impacts.....	6
	E.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.....	6
	E.3 Growth Inducing Effects .....	6
	E.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis.....	7
<b>F.</b>	<b>References</b> .....	7

## Appendix

A – SCE’s Request for EIR Addendum

## **A. Introduction and Background**

On June 29, 2007, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application A.07-06-031 for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) and a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the construction and operation of the proposed Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP or Project). The TRTP includes new and upgraded transmission infrastructure along approximately 173 miles of new and existing rights-of-way (ROW) in southern Kern County, portions of Los Angeles County, including the Angeles National Forest (ANF), and the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County, California, to interconnect new wind energy projects in eastern Kern County to the electrical grid. The Project will provide the electrical facilities necessary to integrate levels of new wind generation in excess of 700 megawatts (MW) and up to approximately 4,500 MW in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area.

In reviewing SCE's application, the CPUC determined that the proposed Project could cause a significant adverse effect on the environment and, therefore, determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be needed. The CPUC filed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research as an indication that a Draft EIR would be prepared. A Draft EIR was prepared and distributed on February 13, 2009, for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA procedures (State CEQA Guidelines §15087). Responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIR were prepared by the Lead Agency (CPUC) and published in the Final EIR (State CEQA Guidelines §15088) on October 30, 2009 (Aspen, 2009). The Final EIR was certified and a CPCN was granted by the CPUC (Decision 09-12-044, SCH #2007081156) on December 17, 2009 (CPUC, 2009).

Since that time, SCE has completed final engineering on portions of the approved Project. Based on final engineering, additional details of various components of the Project have been further defined, as presented in an email to the CPUC from SCE dated December 21, 2010 (SCE, 2010). This Addendum is required to determine whether or not these modifications to the Project were previously covered by the analysis completed in the Final EIR or would result in any new or different impacts from what was previously analyzed in the Final EIR. These modifications are described in detail in Section C, below. A description of the Project, as approved by the CPUC, is also provided below (Section B).

Based on the evaluation of SCE's proposed modifications to the approved Project described in Section D below, no new or substantially different impacts have been identified, no changes to impact significance conclusions are needed, and no new mitigation is necessary. Therefore, there is no need for any additional CEQA analysis of the project modifications described in Section C, below.

## **B. Overview of the Approved Project**

The Project, as approved by the CPUC, includes the installation of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure along approximately 173 miles of new and existing ROW in southern Kern County, portions of Los Angeles County, including the ANF, and the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County, California.

For descriptive purposes, the Project is separated into eight distinct segments, referred to as Segments 4 through 11. Segments 4 through 8, as well as Segments 10 and 11 of the Project are transmission facilities, while Segment 9 addresses the addition and upgrade of substation facilities. The Project's major components include (see Section 2 of the Final EIR for a detailed description of the Project):

- Two new single-circuit 220-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines traveling in parallel approximately 4 miles over new right-of-way (ROW) from the Cottonwind Substation to the proposed new Whirlwind Substation (Segment 4 - 220 kV).
- A new single-circuit 500-kV transmission line, initially energized to 220 kV, traveling approximately 15.6 miles over new ROW from the proposed new Whirlwind Substation to the existing Antelope Substation (Segment 4 - 500 kV).
- Replace approximately 17.4 miles of the existing Antelope-Vincent 220-kV transmission line and the existing Antelope-Mesa 220-kV transmission line with only one new transmission line built to 500-kV standards in existing ROW between the existing Antelope Substation and the existing Vincent Substation (Segment 5).
- Rebuild approximately 31.9 miles of existing 220-kV transmission line to 500-kV standards from existing Vincent Substation to the southern boundary of the Angeles National Forest (ANF). This segment includes the rebuild of approximately 26.9 miles of the existing Antelope-Mesa 220-kV transmission line and approximately 5 miles of the existing Rio Hondo-Vincent 220-kV No. 2 transmission line (Segment 6).
- Rebuild approximately 15.8 miles of existing 220-kV transmission line to 500-kV standards from the southern boundary of the ANF to the existing Mesa Substation. This segment would replace the existing Antelope-Mesa 220-kV transmission line (Segment 7).
- Rebuild approximately 33 miles of existing 220-kV transmission line to 500-kV standards from a point approximately 2 miles east of the existing Mesa Substation (the "San Gabriel Junction") to the existing Mira Loma Substation (Segment 8A). This segment would also include the rebuild of approximately 7 miles of the existing Chino-Mira Loma No. 1 line from single-circuit to double-circuit 220-kV structures (Segment 8B). A new circuit between Chino Substation and approximately 0.8 mile west of the Mira Loma Substation (6.4 miles) would also be installed on the new double-circuit 500-kV structures built as part of Segment 8A (Segment 8C).
- Whirlwind Substation, a new 500/220-kV substation located approximately 4 to 5 miles south of the Cottonwind Substation near the intersection of 170th Street and Holiday Avenue in Kern County near the TWRA (Segment 9).
- Upgrade of the existing Antelope, Vincent, Mesa, Gould, and Mira Loma Substations to accommodate new transmission line construction and system compensation elements (Segment 9).
- Build a new 500-kV transmission line traveling approximately 16.8 miles over new ROW between the approved Windhub Substation (not part of this project) and the proposed new Whirlwind Substation (Segment 10).
- Rebuild approximately 18.7 miles of existing 220-kV transmission line to 500-kV standards between the existing Vincent and Gould Substations. This segment would also include the addition of a new 220-kV circuit on the vacant side of the existing double-circuit structures of the Eagle Rock-Mesa 220-kV transmission line, between the existing Gould Substation and the existing Mesa Substation (Segment 11).
- Installation of associated telecommunications infrastructure.

## C. Modifications to the Project

Based on final engineering completed to date by SCE for the TRTP, additional modifications to the Project have been identified for the Segment 7 66 kV Re-Route/Relocation. As identified in the EIR, Segment 7 of the TRTP accounts for subtransmission line relocation, including 66 kV and distribution lines. Specifically, the EIR identifies that approximately 17,500 circuit feet of the existing Rio Hondo – Amador 66 kV line and approximately 2,500 circuit feet of the existing Rio Hondo – Anita No. 2 66 kV line would be relocated to provide the additional room necessary within the existing ROW to accommodate the new double-circuit 500 kV transmission line.

The TRTP Final EIR (Section 2.2.8.1, pg. 2-22) describes the Rio Hondo – Amador and Rio Hondo – Anita No. 2 66kV lines as proceeding southwest in the existing 66kV ROW along the west side of the San Gabriel River and west along the north side of Lower Azusa Road. Additionally, Notice to Proceed #10 specifies that in locations where 66 kV and other distribution lines both occur, the other distribution lines will be re-routed in the same manner as the 66kV line. Following completion of the Final EIR and the Notice to Proceed Request, final design was completed and it was determined that for engineering and operational functionality and system reliability, the distribution line needs to be realigned from the identified 66 kV re-route.

Work will occur within SCE franchise areas of existing Lower Azusa and Peck Roads. The 66 kV line will remain along the north side of Lower Azusa Road and the west side of Peck Road, as identified in the Final EIR. However, the distribution line has been designed to cross Lower Azusa Road from the north side to the south side, approximately 250 feet east of Peck Road. From there, it travels west along the south side of Lower Azusa Road to Peck Road, where it turns south onto Peck Road for a short distance and reconnects with an existing line. This relocation will require four new wood distribution poles and approximately 300 feet of new distribution conductor (refer to Figure 2-11 of Appendix A).

### D. Evaluation of Modifications

After review of the Final EIR, the CPUC has determined that the proposed modifications would not result in any impacts that are new or substantially different from those described in the Final EIR, as discussed below. Those environmental issue areas for which a potential change in the nature or magnitude of an impact could occur as a result of the proposed modifications are discussed in Section D.1 and are indicated in Table 1 below. The determination made from this evaluation is that all impacts from the proposed modifications are either within the range of impacts already discussed in the Final EIR or are substantially similar to those impacts. No new significant impacts would result from the proposed modifications and there would be no significant change in the magnitude of impacts previously disclosed in the Final EIR. As a result, no new mitigation measures are needed. Those issue areas for which it was determined that no change in impacts would occur as a result of the proposed modifications are discussed briefly in Section D.2.

**Table 1 – Environmental Issue Areas Where Potential Change May Occur**

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils/Paleontology	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Resources

#### D.1 Issue Areas Where Modifications Result in a Potential Change in Impacts

##### Air Quality

Air quality impacts associated with installing the four distribution poles and distribution conductor would be similar to the impacts described in the Final EIR. Vehicle trip increases would be minimal as construction activities in the Final EIR were already identified along Lower Azusa Road and Peck Road; therefore, any emissions increase due to the realignment of 300 feet of distribution conductor and the

addition of four poles would be very minor considering total Project emissions and would be mitigated through Mitigation Measures AQ-1a through AQ-1i. As a result, no new or substantially different air quality impacts would occur, and no new mitigation measures would be necessary. Air quality impacts associated with the Project would remain significant and unavoidable.

### **Biological Resources**

SCE performed an updated preconstruction biological survey on October 27, 2010 in support of the Addendum Project Component. The four distribution poles and distribution conductor and 500-foot buffer do not support any special-status biological resources. Additionally, no jurisdictional features have been identified in the distribution realignment disturbance area (refer to Biological Survey Report of Appendix A). Prior to installation of the four distribution poles and distribution conductor, a nesting bird survey and a clearance sweep will be performed by CPUC-approved biological monitors within three days before the start of construction, on the morning construction is to start, and daily sweeps during construction. With implementation of the Project's mitigation measures, no new or substantially different biological resources impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Cultural Resources**

Two of the distribution poles and approximately 200 feet of the new conductor ROW were included in the previous survey for Rio Hondo-Anita No.2 and Rio Hondo-Amador 66kV Transmission Line survey corridor and no cultural resources were identified (PCR Services Corporation, 2010). The other two distribution poles and approximately 100 feet of new conductor ROW are located in a completely built environment. These areas are likely to consist of previously disturbed subsurface stratigraphic horizons that are unlikely to yield subsurface cultural material. Based on a review of the archaeological database, aerial photographs of the realignment location and realignment scope, the distribution realignment will have no significant impact on cultural resources and has a low probability of impacting previously unrecorded cultural resources (refer to Cultural Clearance email in Appendix A).

If previously unidentified archaeological or historic sites, or paleontological resources are discovered during construction activities, work within the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and the qualified archaeologist or paleontologist (as applicable) monitoring the discovery will determine a safe distance to redirect/relocate work to prevent further impacts/affects on the resources. SCE will implement appropriate measures to protect any find from adverse effects; the CPUC will be notified by SCE within 24 hours of any find and provide information regarding the location and nature of the discovery and steps taken by SCE to protect the find. Construction affecting the resource will not resume until SCE has received a Notice to Proceed from the CPUC.

Further, if human remains are unearthed during excavation, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 state that "... no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and distribution pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98."

No new or substantially different cultural resources impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

The addition of four distribution poles would result in a minor temporary increase in surface disturbance, which could contribute to the degradation of surface water quality. However, erosion and sedimentation impacts would be minimized by the implementation of the existing Erosion Control Plan (Mitigation Measure H-1a) and construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (APMs HYD-1 and

GEO-3). Therefore, no new or substantially different hydrology and water quality impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Noise**

Additional construction would be minimal to implement the distribution line realignment, and is limited to installing four distribution poles and approximately 300 feet of distribution conductor. SCE has implemented APMs NOI-1 (Limit Hours and Days for Construction), NOI-3 (Advance Notification), NOI-4 (Establish Toll Free Number), as well as Mitigation Measures N-1a (Implement Best Management Practices for construction noise) and N-1b (Avoid sensitive receptors during mobile construction equipment use) to reduce the effects of construction noise on sensitive receptors during Project activities. However, Project impacts remain significant and unavoidable, same as the approved Project. The proposed modification would not introduce any new or substantially different noise impacts and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Population/Housing**

All personnel involved in constructing the distribution line realignment will be temporary. Additionally, the distribution line is a realignment of a planned facility and would not result in an increase in workers. Therefore, no adverse impacts to the study area population would result from the construction or permanent use of the distribution line. No new population or housing impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Transportation/Traffic**

A very slight increase in construction traffic may occur due to the distribution line realignment. No additional construction personnel will be required; however, additional construction vehicle trips could be required for material hauling of the additional four distribution poles. These additional vehicle trips would be considered minimal when compared to the total trips required for the entire Project. Therefore, no new or substantially different traffic/transportation impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Visual Resources**

A limited amount of work would be needed to install the four distribution poles and distribution conductor, and the poles and conductor would be situated within a developed area with existing overhead utility lines, stoplights, and streetlights. Therefore, no change to the visual character of the area and no additional impacts to visual resources are anticipated. Additionally, the four distribution poles and distribution conductor are not visible from the established Key Observation Points (KOP) listed in the Final EIR, and occur outside of the range of any KOP viewsheds and will not impact these visual resources. Therefore, no new or substantially different visual impacts would occur and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

## **D.2 Issue Areas Where Modifications Result in No Change**

The proposed modifications would occur within disturbed habitats. The proposed modifications do not change the characteristics or overall scale of the approved Project and involve only negligible changes to the Project's design. Therefore, potential environmental impacts to agricultural resources, geology, soils and paleontology, hazards and hazardous materials, land use, mineral resources, public services, and

utilities and service systems are not expected to change or increase in severity compared to what was described for in the Final EIR of the approved Project.

## **E. Other CEQA Considerations**

### **E.1 Significant Unavoidable Impacts**

The environmental impacts of the approved Project are described in detail in Section 3 (Effectuated Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Final EIR, and for the proposed modifications, in Section D (Evaluation of Modification) of this Addendum. All the significant and unavoidable (Class I) impacts identified for the approved Project, as discussed in Section 5.1.3 (Adverse Environmental Effects that Cannot Be Avoided) of the Final EIR, would be the same as for the approved Project with implementation of the proposed modifications.

### **E.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources**

As described in the Final EIR, the approved Project would result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources. The proposed modifications, minor in comparison, would be similar to the approved Project. Construction of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would result in the same irretrievable commitment of natural resources as described in the Final EIR. Please see Section 5.1.2 of the Final EIR for a complete discussion of irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources for the approved Project.

### **E.3 Growth-Inducing Effects**

As described in the Final EIR, the primary purposes of the approved Project are to accommodate potential renewable power generation in the Tehachapi area, prevent overloading of existing transmission facilities, and comply with reliability criteria for transmission planning. The proposed modifications serve the same purposes and are minor in comparison to the approved Project. Construction and operation of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not change the growth-inducing effects described for the approved Project in the Final EIR. Please see Section 5.1.4 of the Final EIR for a complete discussion of growth-inducing effects for the approved Project.

### **E.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis**

Construction and operation of the proposed modifications identified by SCE would not change the cumulative impacts described for the approved Project in the Final EIR. Please see Section 3 (Cumulative Impact Analysis by Issue Area) of the Final EIR for a discussion of the impacts of the Project that could potentially be “cumulatively considerable” or might be able to combine with similar impacts of other identified projects in a substantial way.

## **F. References**

Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen). 2009. Final Environmental Impact Report, Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. Report prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission. October 2009. Agoura Hills, California.



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). 2009. Decision Granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Segments 4-11). Decision 09-12-044. December 17.

PCR Services Corporation. 2010. Southern California Edison Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Relocation of Proposed Rio Hondo-Anita No.2 and Rio Hondo-Amador 66kV Transmission Line; Los Angeles County, California. Submitted to Southern California Edison Company, Rosemead, CA.

Southern California Edison (SCE). 2010. Email communication from Lori Iles-Rangel of SCE to Vida Strong of Aspen Environmental Group, "TRTP 66 kV Addendum – Distribution Relocation at Lower Azusa & Peck". December 21.