

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 21, 2015

Ryan Stevenson
Principal Advisor
Regulatory Policy & Affairs
Southern California Edison
8631 Rush Street, General Office 4 - G100 (Ground Floor)
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Minor Temporary Work Change #1

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On October 9, 2015, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Minor Temporary Work Change request for the use of two existing access roads and three additional wire setup sites on the Segment 8 500 kV Underground Transmission Line (T/L), Phase 1, of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. **This Minor Temporary Work Change Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE submitted a request for a Minor Temporary Work Change for the use of two existing access roads and three additional wire setup sites (WSS) on Segment 8 T/L Phase 1 of the TRTP, in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #11 dated August 12, 2010) by the CPUC, SCE has identified the need for three additional WSS and the use of two existing access roads as described below:

- A new WSS (approximately 0.901 acre) situated between a guard structure work area adjacent to State Route 71 and the Structure M64-T2 work area.
- A new WSS (approximately 0.425 acre) adjoining the west-side of the Structure M30-T3 work area.
- A new WSS (approximately 0.305 acre) situated between the Structure M30-T3 work area and WSS 8-1.16.
- Use of two existing, asphalt-paved access roads, measuring a total of approximately 1,808 linear feet, to support large construction vehicle access to the guard structure work areas.

The proposed WSSs and the additional access roads are needed to safely conduct wire stringing activities.

Based upon existing site conditions, vegetation removal and minor grading may occur. The proposed WSSs lie within an existing SCE easement, and SCE will obtain a Temporary Entry Permit for use of the proposed access roads.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological summary with the minor temporary work change request for the Segment 8 T/L Phase 1 use of two access roads and three additional WSS (Variance Project Component), and the associated 500-foot buffer. The Variance Project Component plus the 500-foot buffer

is referred to as the Biological Study Area (BSA). The proposed additional work area is within the SCE TRTP protocol and focused survey corridor. Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component include California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, Southern willow scrub, and open water. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, non-native woodland, ruderal grassland, Southern willow scrub, and open water. No special status plant species or regulated tree species occur within the BSA. A potential western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) nest occurs within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional resource 8-44-S-2 falls within the proposed area, but will be avoided. Jurisdictional resources 8-44-S-2 and 8-45-S-1 occur within the 500-foot buffer and will also be avoided.

Temporary impacts will be mitigated on-site per the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and APM BIO-1a, as well as SWPPP requirements, weed control (Mitigation Measure [MM] B-3a), dust control (MM AQ-1a), and visual resources (MM V-1 and APM AES-8 and APM AES-13).

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this minor temporary work change and the conditions noted below.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated September 21, 2015 with the minor temporary work change request titled the *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L Phase I, Variance Request – Access Road and Wire Setup Sites East of State Route 71*. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed Variance request in support of the TRTP Segment 8 Phase 1. The proposed areas in support of this Variance request were included in previous surveys for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010). Therefore, no further cultural resources work is required for this Variance request.

Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the underlying geology for the proposed Variance request area is located within Quaternary alluvium (Qa), which has a low sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron and Kelly 2010). Therefore, no further paleontological resources work is required for this Variance request.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this minor temporary work change and the conditions noted below.

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

- Prior to the start of construction, the area requested in this Minor Temporary Work Change shall be staked and reviewed and approved by the CPUC Environmental Monitor.
- All conditions required by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #11 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #11, and this Minor Temporary Work Change shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen