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

May 28, 2010

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Project Manager
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Segments 4-11), Notice to Proceed (NTP # 7)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On May 13, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) seeking authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to permanently re-route the telecom line to replace the existing telecom line along a portion of Segment 8, between the Walnut Substation and the Chino Substation (referred to as Segment 8 Telecom) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) located in unincorporated Los Angeles County, the Cities of Industry, Diamond Bar, Walnut, and Pomona in Los Angeles County, and Cities of Chino Hills and Chino in San Bernardino County, California.

The SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Project) was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by CPUC Decision 09-12-044, (Application #07-06-031), SCH #2007081156 on December 17, 2009. **NTP # 7 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

  SCE is requesting to permanently re-route the telecom line to replace the existing telecom line along a portion of Segment 8, between the Walnut Substation and the Chino Substation (referred to as Segment 8 Telecom). The existing telecom fiber optic cable (FOC) is currently situated on the Chino-Mesa 220 kV Transmission Line (T/L) that will be demolished as part of the TRTP.

  **Site Locations**

  The Segment 8 Telecom re-route will traverse through unincorporated Los Angeles County and the Cities of Industry, Diamond Bar, Walnut, Pomona, and in Los Angeles County, and Cities of Chino Hills and Chino in San Bernardino County.

  The Segment 8 Telecom re-route will involve using existing FOC routes, existing overhead structures, and underground duct bank conduits that will not be impacted by demolition and rebuild plans. The Segment 8 Telecom re-route will also add new FOC along existing overhead and underground facilities. Additionally, new underground conduit and one new communications pole will be installed as part of the Segment 8 Telecom re-route. Detailed descriptions of the re-route alignment are as follows:

  **Walnut Substation to Ganesha Substation (via Nogales Substation) Re-Route**
  From the Walnut Substation to the Ganesha Substation via Nogales Substation, the re-route will use strands within existing FOC. All work for the FOC extent between Walnut and Ganesha Substations will occur at the substations. At Ganesha Substation, one existing underground 24 fiber tap cable will be removed and a 48 fiber cable will be installed in its place. At Nogales Substation, one existing underground 24 fiber tap cable will be removed and a 48 fiber cable will be installed in its place.

**Ganesha Substation to Chino Substation (w/Peyton Substation FOC extension) Re-Route**
Between Ganesha Substation and the Chino Substation, including a spur extension to the Peyton Substation, the approximate 12-mile re-route will place new FOC in existing underground conduit and on existing overhead structures, as well as some new underground conduit and one communications pole. Starting within the Ganesha Substation, new FOC will be placed in an existing underground conduit exiting the substation 200 feet to the north where it will rise-up on an existing SCE pole. The FOC will head east along the railroad right-of-way for approximately 453 feet on existing overhead facilities. The FOC will then head south on an existing pole line on Dudley Street for approximately 5,000 feet. The FOC will cross the 71 Freeway on existing overhead facilities. From the crossing, the FOC will follow the SCE right-of-way on the southwest side of the 71 Freeway for approximately 3,659 feet on an existing pole line. The FOC will then be placed in an existing underground conduit heading east and continue on Lexington Avenue for approximately 4,500 feet. From Lexington Avenue, the FOC will then turn south on the east side of Garey Avenue, where it will extend south for approximately 3,700 feet. From Garey Avenue, the FOC will turn east on the north side of County Road for approximately 800 feet, where it will rise-up onto an existing SCE pole at the northeast corner of County Road and Citron Place. The route continues on County Road on an existing overhead line for approximately 4,600 feet. The FOC turns south on Reservoir Street, proceeds approximately 500 feet on an existing pole line and then dips into an existing underground conduit. The FOC continues underground for approximately 200 feet and crosses under the 60 Freeway. After the freeway crossing, the FOC will rise-up onto an existing pole, continues on an existing pole line on the west side of Reservoir Street approximately 1,133 feet, crosses to the east side of Reservoir Street, and continues south approximately 1,000 feet to Riverside Drive. The FOC will then continue east on the north side of Riverside Drive approximately 2,200 feet to East End Avenue. The FOC will turn south on the west side of East End Avenue and travel approximately 2,700 feet to Chino Avenue. The FOC will then turn east on existing poles along the north side of Chino Avenue for approximately 2,650 feet, and cross to the south side of Chino Avenue at Pipeline Avenue. The FOC will continue along the south side of Chino Avenue for approximately 3,600 feet before dipping underground. The route proceeds in new underground conduit for approximately 212 feet, where it will rise-up onto an existing pole just west of Yorba Avenue. The FOC will continue east on existing overhead poles along Chino Avenue for approximately 1,100 feet, then dip underground in new conduit. The route proceeds in the new underground conduit for approximately 415 feet, where it will rise-up on an existing pole and continues on an existing pole line for approximately 350 feet. The FOC will continue east approximately 156 feet, over the Union Pacific Railroad corridor, where it will continue on existing poles on the north side of Chino Avenue for approximately 225 feet. The FOC will then cross to the south side of Chino Avenue and continue on existing overhead poles for approximately 3,500 feet to 12$^{th}$ Street. The FOC then runs south on the east side of 12$^{th}$ Street for approximately 5,250 feet to Edison Avenue. The FOC then turns east onto the north side of Edison Avenue, and will continue approximately 1,200 feet on existing poles into Chino Substation. The FOC will then proceed in new underground conduit within the Chino Substation for approximately 130 feet, and tie into existing underground conduit for approximately 700 feet. The FOC will terminate at the electrical equipment room.

**Peyton Substation FOC Extension**
The Peyton Substation FOC Extension starts at the northeast corner of Riverside Drive and Reservoir Street and ends at Peyton Substation. New FOC will be placed on existing SCE poles on the south side of Riverside Drive and head west for approximately 2,100 feet. The FOC will cross the street approximately 440 feet east of Towne Avenue and continue on the north side of Riverside Drive for approximately 220 feet where a new 35 foot communications pole will be installed. The FOC will continue to travel west approximately 200 feet from the new pole to an existing pole at the northeast corner of Riverside Drive and South Towne Avenue. The FOC will continue approximately 427 feet on existing poles, then proceeds underground for approximately 500 feet along the north side of Riverside Drive and east of the 71 Freeway in new underground conduit. This new underground conduit ends at the corner of the 71 Freeway on-ramp and the north side of Riverside Drive. The FOC will continue in existing conduit for approximately 6,200 feet to the southwest corner of Peyton Drive and Skyview Ridge. New conduit will begin at splice box S5313130 and be built on the west side of Peyton Drive, extending south approximately 1,000 feet and connect to splice box S5313129, located at the southwest corner of Peyton Drive and Olympic View Drive. New conduit installation will continue along the west of Peyton Drive for approximately 1,500 feet to connect several existing

splice boxes (S5313130, S5313129, S5313128, and S5313127) at the northwest corner of Peyton Drive and Grand Avenue. New conduit will connect these splice boxes to an existing vault (V5313126), located approximately 300 feet south, near the southwest corner of Peyton Drive and Grand Avenue. The FOC will continue in new conduit along the west side of Peyton Drive, connecting two vaults (V5313126 and V5309476), for approximately 1,300 feet, to the southwest corner of Peyton Drive and Payne Ranch Road. The FOC will then continue approximately 600 feet in new conduit to the intersection of Peyton Drive and English Road where the FOC will turn west at English Road and continue approximately 300 feet, terminating in a new vault location on the north side of the road. From the new vault, the FOC will continue in new conduit proceeding south approximately 100 feet into Peyton Substation and terminate in the MEER building.

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

Construction equipment operating hours for the Segment 8 Telecom re-route are planned from approximately 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. SCE has established a TRTP toll-free information line (877-795-8787) and website (www.sce.com/tehachapi). The information line is the designated public notification contact for the Segment 8 Telecom re-route.

**Project Elements/Construction Activities**

Proposed project elements for the Segment 8 Telecom work include the following: pull/tension sites, underground conduits, communications pole, FOC, construction equipment and vehicles, permit requirements (e.g. BMPs, etc.).

Proposed project construction activities for the Segment 8 Telecom work include the following: installation of pole structures, underground conduit, and FOC; communications pole installation; operation of construction equipment and vehicles; installation, maintenance, and removal of permit requirements.

**Site Work**

Between Walnut Substation and Ganesha Substation, the re-route will use strands within existing FOC, and hence, will not require site preparation. From Ganesha Substation to Chino Substation, including a spur extension to Peyton Substation, the re-route will entail installation of new FOC in existing underground conduit and on overhead facilities with some portions requiring construction of new conduit and one additional communications pole. Specific information on these activities is provided below.

**Site Preparation** – No ground disturbing site preparation activities are anticipated.

**Underground Activities** – Approximately 18,000 linear feet (3.4 miles) will utilize existing underground conduits, and approximately 7,500 linear feet will require the installation of new underground conduit. The re-route between Ganesha and Chino Substations will require new FOC installation and will use new and existing underground conduit. For new underground utility installation, an approximate 1.5 foot wide and 3-foot-deep trench will be excavated, a utility duct bank or conduit installed, and the trench filled with concrete slurry (bottom portion) and native soil or pavement (top portion) to match existing grade.

**Aboveground Activities** – Approximately 43,000 linear feet (approximately 8.0 miles) of FOC will be installed on existing overhead pole lines adjacent to local streets and along a portion of the 71 Freeway. The overhead FOC will be installed with Telsta bucket trucks stringing and winching between poles. Pull sites, approximately 20 feet wide by 50 feet long, will be utilized for this work. One new 35-foot-tall wood pole will be installed on the north side of Riverside Drive, approximately 440 feet east of Towne Avenue.

- **Biological Resources.** SCE submitted a Biological Review prepared by ICF International dated May 2010 for Segment 8 Telecom. Focused surveys that have been completed in conjunction with Segment 8 of the TRTP, which include Segment 8 Telecom, were reviewed. The FEIR/DEIS (Aspen 2009) vegetation mapping was reviewed and utilized for all project areas that overlap the TRTP Study

Corridor. Other focused survey reports that were reviewed include: focused surveys for rare plants (AMEC 2007, AMEC 2009a), burrowing owl burrows (AMEC 2009b), and burrowing owl (AMEC 2009c). Literature resources were reviewed including CNDDB, state protected or regulated habitats, CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, USFWS critical habitat, and federally proposed and designated Critical Habitat.

No state protected or regulated habitats, or federal critical habitat occurs in the project area. The Segment 8 Telecom project area is aligned through a mostly urbanized setting consisting of industrial, commercial, and residential development. Most of the project area is mapped as Developed/Disturbed/Barren; however, five other vegetation communities were identified: ruderal grassland, nonnative woodland, mule fat scrub, agriculture, and open water.

A field survey was conducted for the Segment 8 Telecom area on March 8 and 9, 2010, by ICF biologists, and a second field visit was conducted on March 19, 2010. The project alignment plus a 500-foot buffer was surveyed. Where accessible, vegetation communities within the project area were traversed on foot. Inaccessible areas were viewed with binoculars from public vantage points and/or assessed using aerial imagery. Plants observed in the project area consisted primarily of ruderal herbaceous plants and scattered ornamental trees and shrubs. Most trees and shrubs supported within the project area consist of ornamental plantings, but also included native species such as mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees. Native oak trees were observed with the project area, but are located well outside the alignment where work will occur. Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) and smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) have the potential to occur in the mule fat scrub vegetation community located south of Valley Boulevard in the western portion of the project area. No special-status plants were observed during the site survey.

The mule fat scrub vegetation community located south of Valley Boulevard in the western portion of the project area provides a low potential to support coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), south coast garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis* ssp.) and two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*). No burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) and no definitive burrowing owl signs (e.g., feather, track, and pellets) were observed in the project area; however, burrowing owl have been documented (AMEC 2009c) along the eastern end of the project area along Edison Avenue. Numerous open fields and vacant lots are located adjacent to the project area and many of these areas appear to contain suitable habitat for burrowing owls. Nesting birds were not observed during the site visit; however, numerous bird species, including raptors, have the potential to nest within the project area. No special-status animals were detecting during the survey.

- **Cultural Resources.** SCE submitted a Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Segment 8 Telecom Route dated March 9, 2010. In-person records searches were conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at Cal State Fullerton and at the Archaeological Information Center (AIC) at the San Bernardino County Museum. According to maps on file at the SCCIC and AIC, portions of the project area have been included in six previous cultural resources surveys. As a result of these studies, one historic resource has been identified in the APE. The resource, 19-186112 (Union Pacific/Southern Pacific Railroad) crosses underneath several portions of the telecom route. The telecom line crossing the railroad will be bundled with existing overhead wires above the railroad. No construction or construction related activities will take place at ground level where the railroad lies. Thus no impacts will occur to the resource and it can be avoided.

  More than twenty cultural resources surveys have been conducted outside of the project area, but within a one mile radius. As a result of these studies, 42 cultural resources have been identified and include prehistoric and historic-period sites. The prehistoric sites consist of lithic scatters and stone tools. The historic-period sites consist of a variety of resources including refuse disposals, ranching sites, and several historic-period buildings in the downtown Chino area. All of these resources are

located outside of the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed telecommunications route. Because the majority of the proposed route will be placed on existing poles on paved and unpaved roads and routed through existing underground conduits, a reconnaissance survey or "windshield survey" was conducted for the original proposed telecom route; streets containing the poles that will be used were toured and areas of exposed ground surface were inspected for any evidence of cultural resources. The areas of proposed new underground conduit as well as a 50-foot buffer were also surveyed, where possible. Many of the areas of proposed ground disturbances area located within existing streets, sidewalks, or landscaping, or are located on private property within developed areas. The location of the new wood pole as well as a 100-foot buffer was also surveyed.

A paleontological resources review was conducted by Paleo Solutions for the Segment 8 Telecom route. While the overall paleontological sensitivity for the proposed route was very low to low, the route does border certain areas with geological deposits classified as having high to very high paleontological sensitivity. Paleo Solutions recommends a pre-construction field survey for those areas of proposed ground disturbance that are characterized by high to very high paleontological sensitivity and that contain exposed bedrock or surficial deposits; based on field observations, such areas do not exist within the project APE. Paleo Solutions also recommends continuous monitoring of earth moving activities in areas characterized by high to very high paleontological sensitivity. Areas of proposed ground disturbance that intersect highly sensitive areas include route segments along Peyton Drive west of State Route 71 between approximately Chino Avenue and Grand Avenue, as well as in the approximate area of Payne Ranch Road.

No new archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources were identified along the proposed telecom route.

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

- All sensitive resource buffers shall be flagged prior to construction and project area occupation. Resource flagging shall be field verified by the CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) prior to project area use.

- The Segment 8 Telecom ground disturbance areas shall be included in the project Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan required by MM B-1a, subject to review and approval by CPUC.

- A biological pre-construction survey shall be submitted to and approved by the CPUC prior to site occupation/disturbance. All 2010 special-status bird sightings and nesting activities shall be included within the biological pre-construction survey and reported to the USFWS and CDFG prior to site occupation. Confirmation of special-status species notifications with the resource agencies shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to site occupation.

- Biological survey sweeps are required to occur immediately preceding and during project area set up and occupation as part of required biological monitoring activities. Sweeps for nesting birds shall include a 500 foot buffer. If active nests are found, a biological monitor shall establish a required 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. For ***listed riparian species***, no work will be authorized within 500 feet of an active nest and all activities will stop immediately within 500 feet of the nest (Mitigation Measure B-15). 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. The biological monitor shall be responsible for documenting the results of the surveys and the ongoing monitoring. The buffer may be adjusted with the approval of CDFG and USFWS, and with prior knowledge of the CPUC. If special-status plant or animal species or bird nests are observed within the project area, CDFG and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately (within 24 hours). After complete sweeps have been submitted and approved by

the CPUC EM, site occupation can occur; however, if occupation does not occur within seven calendar days of survey, biological clearance sweeps shall be re-conducted prior to site occupation, including nesting bird surveys during the breeding season.

- Per MM B-29, Implement CDFG Protocol for Burrowing Owls, SCE shall conduct protocol pre-construction surveys in potential burrowing owl habitat.

- Per Paleo Solutions recommendation, continuous monitoring of earth moving activities in areas characterized by high to very high paleontological sensitivity shall be conducted. Areas of proposed ground disturbance that intersect highly sensitive areas include route segments along Peyton Drive west of State Route 71 between approximately Chino Avenue and Grand Avenue, as well as in the approximate area of Payne Ranch Road.

- SCE shall submit the revised cultural report to the CPUC per the Applied EarthWorks memorandum dated May 21, 2010, prior to the start of construction.

- If unanticipated biological, cultural or paleontological resources are detected, the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.

- Refueling and fueling locations shall be a minimum of 150-feet away from existing drainages. If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.

- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Notice to Proceed shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.

- No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes to construction technique or mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a Variance Request shall be submitted for CPUC review and approval.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen