STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

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

May 2, 2011

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, GO1
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Modification #4 to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On April 22, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10 for the removal of approximately 99 existing poles along Edison Avenue, including use of temporary disturbance areas of approximately 100 feet by 100 feet for equipment setup and use at each pole removal location on the Segment 7 and 8 66 kV Relocation of Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. **This Modification #4 to NTP #10 is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

  SCE requests a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP #10) for the removal of approximately 99 existing poles along Edison Avenue, including use of temporary disturbance areas of approximately 100 feet by 100 feet for equipment setup and use at each pole removal location on the Segment 7 and 8 66 kV Relocation of TRTP in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. The Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) for Segment 7 and 8 66 kV Relocation (NTP #10 dated August 3, 2010) was prepared prior to completion of final design. As part of final design, it was identified that the undergrounding of 66 kV lines, and adjacent distribution lines, along Edison Avenue in the City of Chino, would result in the need to remove approximately 99 existing poles along Edison Avenue. These pole removals will require temporary disturbance areas of approximately 100 feet by 100 feet for equipment setup and use.

- **Biological Resources**: SCE submitted a biological report from ICF International dated April 19, 2011 titled *Biological Survey Report for a Pole Removal Variance for TRTP, Segment 8 66kV Relocation, San Bernardino County, California.* The report documents the results of biological surveys for the proposed pole removals along Edison Avenue in the City of Chino [NTP Modification Site] (Variance Project Component) and a 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]). Biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during surveys within and adjacent to the BSA, including focused species surveys (AMEC 2008, 2009a, 2009j, ICF 2010av, 2010ss, 2010ww, 2010xx) and preconstruction biological surveys (ICF 2010ax, 2010dg, 2010dh, 2010du, 2010dv, 2010ex, 2010fg, 2010fi, 2011w, 2011x, 2011bc, 2011be). A literature review was also performed as part of the biological review (ICF 2010kk).

  The Variance Project Component is composed of disturbed/developed land and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities observed within the BSA (ICF 2010at) include: agriculture, disturbed/developed, mule fat scrub, ruderal grassland, non-native woodland, and sparsely vegetated streambed. No special-status plants have been observed in the BSA during the previous focused (ICF 2010at) and preconstruction survey completed as part of this report. No regulated trees have been recorded for the BSA (ICF 2010av).

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) features occur within the BSA. Focused protocol surveys (AMEC 2008b, 2009a, 2009j; ICF 2010xx) and focused preconstruction surveys (ICF 2010dh, 2010dv, 2010ex, 2010fg, 2010fi, 2011w, 2011be) have confirmed the presence of burrowing owls and active burrows. A revised focused burrowing owl survey in January identified burrowing owl individuals (ICF 2011w). Potential burrowing owl features were also recorded throughout the BSA. Ongoing nest monitoring has identified active burrowing owl nests (FRED #s 459, 541, 540, and 590) within the BSA. A burrowing owl relocation plan for 66 kV has been submitted and approved by CDFG and implemented in the field. As a result, an artificial burrows complex with six (6) burrows occurs within the BSA and currently supports one burrowing owl nest.

As of April 14, 2011, several active bird nests occur within the BSA, and those identified within the Variance Project Component include burrowing owl, mourning dove (*Zanaida macroura*), and northern mocking bird (*Mimus polyglottos*). Appropriate nesting buffers have been established and ongoing construction monitoring and sweeps continue to check for nesting birds.

Focused special-status bat habitat assessment surveys (ICF 2010cb, 2010fj) identified potential roost habitat within the BSA at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Edison Avenue.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulated Waters of the U.S., California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulated Waters of the State, and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) related streambed and riparian areas were identified in the Jurisdictional Delineation Report for TRTP Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). Four jurisdictional features (8-50-S-1, 8-50-S-2, 8-50-S-3, and 8-50-S-4) were mapped within the Variance Project Component (ICF 2010h). A fifth drainage (8-51-S-1) is located at the eastern end of the BSA. Permits have been requested for impacts to 8-50-S-1 and 8-50-S-2 (temporary disturbance for 66kV undergrounding) and 8-50-S-3 (temporary trenching for 66kV undergrounding). Impacts to 8-50-S-1 and 8-50-S-2 will be avoided until all regulatory permits have been obtained. In addition, proposed impacts to 8-50-S-3 will require concurrence from the Regulatory Agencies that proposed impacts are covered under the previous permit application; the removal of poles was not included in the original application and additional temporary disturbance area is required. Due to the nature and size of the proposed pole removal, a permit amendment is not anticipated. A qualified biological monitor will be present on site during all construction preparation activities at the Variance Project Component and will ensure the avoidance of impacts to 8-50-S-4. If impacts to 8-50-S-4 are required, a permit amendment will be needed prior to any disturbance within this feature.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources**: SCE submitted a memorandum with the Variance Request from Matthew Wetherbee, MSc, RPA, Archaeologist, dated March 31, 2011, stating that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted/effected by the proposed removal of approximately ninety-nine (99) distribution poles for Segment 8 66 kV and associated disturbance areas for the TRTP along the north and south sides of Edison Avenue, in the City of Chino, California. All of the distribution poles to be removed and associated disturbance areas were included in the previous surveys for the TRTP right-of-way corridor and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007; Panich et al. 2010; PCR Services 2010).

  Fifteen (15) of these poles and associated disturbance areas are situated within the SCE Chino Substation. As part of the SCE historic infrastructure review, the Chino Substation was identified as a historic substation complex (Urbana Preservation and Planning 2010) and was evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) per the Programmatic Agreement. The Chino Substation complex as a whole was determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR (Urbana 2010). However, one component of the complex, the Chino Substation building, is considered to meet the definition of a historical resource/historic property (Urbana

2010). The construction of the removal of these poles would occur within the view of the historic Chino Substation building, but not within the footprint or immediately adjacent to the exterior walls of the historic building. TRTP activities, including the removal of these poles, in the Chino Substation complex, would not cause any material impairments or integrity reduction to the historic Chino Substation building, and therefore, the removal of these poles would not result in an adverse effect to the historic property or to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource (Urbana 2010).

The Paleontological Resources Management Plan (PRMP) for Segments 4 -11 of the TRTP project area was prepared by Cogstone Resource Management Inc. (Gust and Scott 2009). No paleontological localities have been previously discovered in the project vicinity and the surface sediments (Quaternary alluvium) have low sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources. The TRTP right-of-way for Segment 8 was surveyed for paleontological resources in August 2010 and no paleontological resources were encountered (Aron 2010).

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- Impacts to jurisdictional drainage features 8-50-S-1 and 8-50-S-2 will be avoided until all regulatory permits have been obtained. In addition, proposed impacts to 8-50-S-3 will require concurrence from the Regulatory Agencies that proposed impacts are covered under the previous permit application.

- All conditions required by NTP #10 shall apply to the subject area and activities.

- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #10, and this Modification #4 to NTP #10 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager
cc: V. Strong, Aspen