

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 20, 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 #12 to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On December 13, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10 for use of a Temporary Construction Disturbance Area and Vault (V43203) location shift along the underground dip segment of the Rio Hondo – Amador – Jose – Mesa, 66 kV trench line, for the Segment 7 and 8 66kV Transmission Line (T/L) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in the San Gabriel Junction area, in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California. **This Modification #12 to NTP #10 is approved by the 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 use of the identified Temporary Construction Disturbance Area and Vault (V43203) Location Shift along the underground dip segment of the Rio Hondo – Amador – Jose – Mesa, 66 kV trench line, for the Segments 7 and 8 66 kV T/L for the TRTP, in the San Gabriel Junction area, in unincorporated Los Angeles 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, a Temporary Construction Disturbance Area has been added to the underground dip segment of the Rio Hondo – Amador – Jose – Mesa, 66 kV trench line. The Temporary Construction Disturbance Area is approximately 1.78 acres and extends along the entirety of the trench line. The Temporary Construction Disturbance Area will allow for material and equipment set-up during construction of the underground trench. In addition, as part of final design, vault V43203 and its associated vault setup area were shifted in line to the northwest approximately 100 feet for purposes of engineering and operational functionality.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resource information with the Variance Request. The Segment 7 and 8 66 kV Relocation – San Gabriel Junction, Underground Dip, Temporary Construction Disturbance Area (Project Component) is generally located within the approved 66 kV and/or Segment 7 and 8 T/L work area referred to as the San Gabriel Junction. The Project Component is comprised of disturbed/developed vegetation communities. Surrounding areas within 500 feet of the Project Component consist of disturbed/developed, coast live oak riparian forest, coastal sage scrub, nonnative woodland, exotic giant reed, and ruderal grassland vegetation communities. These surrounding vegetation communities will not be impacted by the Project Component. The Project Component is not located within critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*). No active bird nests occur within the work area. Known biological resources within the Project Component include potential solitary bat roosts, dispersing California gnatcatcher (i.e., no known existing or historic nests), and coast live oak trees. Special-status

biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking where applicable. Construction has been on-going in this area since approximately August 25, 2011 and the following surveys have been conducted in the area: bat habitat assessment (October 26-29, 2010), preconstruction burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) surveys (August 18, 2010), and general biological preconstruction survey (August 10, 2011). A jurisdictional resource does occur within and adjacent to the Project Component and the activity and impact area described herein is included in the existing TRTP wetland permits. No permit amendment is required.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

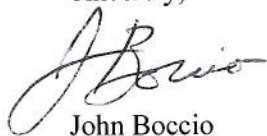
Cultural and Paleontological Resources: SCE submitted a memorandum titled *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 7/8 66kV – Variance Request – San Gabriel Junction, Underground Dip, Temporary Construction Disturbance Area* dated December 12, 2011 from SCE Archaeologist, Matthew Wetherbee, MSc, RPA. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed underground dip and temporary disturbance area in support of the 66 kV relocation, at the San Gabriel junction for the TRTP. The proposed disturbance area for this variance request was included in the previous cultural resources surveys for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007, Pacific Legacy et al. 2010; Schneider and Holson 2010). Previous paleontological assessments (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010) prepared for the TRTP project area indicate that no paleontological resources have been previously discovered in the project vicinity. Soils in the area consist of young alluvial fan deposits (Qyf), and are too young geologically to have the potential to yield significant fossil resources and are therefore assigned low paleontologic sensitivity (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010).

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- 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 #12 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