

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 23, 2012

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 #13 to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On January 31, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #10 to conduct the removal and installation activities at Pole No. 1431134E on the Segment 7 and 8 66kV Transmission Lines (T/L) Relocation of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California. Additional information was submitted by SCE to the CPUC on February 22, 2012. **This Modification #13 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 to complete the removal and installation activities at Pole No. 1431134E on Segment 7 and 8 66kV T/L Relocation of the TRTP, in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California. The Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) for Segment 7 and 8 66kV Relocation (NTP #10, dated August 3, 2010) did not include activities at Pole No. 1431134E, which is located adjacent and to the southeast of Pole No. 4704314E. The purpose of this variance request is to acquire approval to complete the following activities at Pole No. 1431134E:

Removal Activities

- Remove three 25kV transformers and one 16kV transformer
- Remove KPF switch
- Remove cross arms
- Remove down guy
- Remove all associated distribution hardware
- Top the pole at distribution level (approximately 50 feet above ground level)

Installation Activities

- Install new handhole box (10.5 in. x 17 in. x 12 in.) located 15 feet south of Pole No. 1431134 and within pole work area.
- Install 15 feet of duct from handhole box to Pole No. 1431134E. Duct will be installed in a trench (approximately 3 ft. deep and 1 ft. wide).

Pole No. 1431134E will remain in place with third party communication.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the Variance Request stating that the Segment 7 and 8 66kV Relocation Pole, No. 1431134E, removal and installation activities (Project Component) are located within previously approved and surveyed Segment 8 66kV work areas and buffers. The following surveys have been conducted in the area: bat habitat assessment (February 18, 2011 and September 15, 2011), biological preconstruction and sweep (February 18, 20, 2011 and September 15, 2011). The Project Component is comprised of developed streetscape including a California walnut tree (*Juglans californica*). Vegetation communities and biological resources located within 500 feet of the Project Component include additional developed land, ruderal grassland, agriculture, Mulefat scrub, southern willow scrub, southern arroyo willow riparian forest, exotic giant reed and nonnative woodland (ICF 2010at). These surrounding vegetation communities will not be impacted by the Project Component.

The Project Component is not located within occupied habitat or critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) or least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). However, the Project Component is located within 500 feet of occupied least Bell's vireo habitat. Use of the Project Component is subject to the terms and conditions of the USFWS Biological Opinion and CDFG Incidental Take Permit. If active California gnatcatcher or least Bell's vireo nests or territories are observed during required surveys or construction monitoring, applicable disturbance free buffers will be implemented. 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 late September 2011 (along Siphon Road) and since early March 2011 (along San Gabriel Boulevard). A jurisdictional resource is located adjacent to the Project Component, but will not be impacted by the Project Component.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

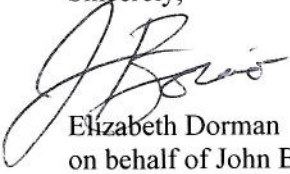
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated January 30, 2012 regarding the SCE TRTP Variance Request – Segment 7 and 8 66kV Relocation - Cultural Clearance for Removal and Installation Activities at Pole No. 1431134E, in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The memorandum states that no cultural resources will be impacted by the removal and installation activities at Pole No. 1431134E in support of the TRTP. A cultural record search and survey (PCR 2010), and a paleontological literature review (Gust and Scott 2009) have been previously conducted for this area of Segments 7 and 8. This research indicates that the proposed disturbance area is located within an area previously surveyed for the TRTP and shows that no cultural resources will be impacted by ground disturbance at this location. This research also shows that no significant paleontological resources are likely to exist at this location. A review of the Dibblee El Monte – Baldwin Park map shows the area mapped as Holocene alluvial gravel, sand and silt of valley areas (Qa). The paleontological sensitivity is low for this area.

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 #13 to NTP #10 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Dorman', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Dorman
on behalf of John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen