

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
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October 28, 2014

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: Final Engineering Concurrence to NTP #11

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On October 21, 2014, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for a new permanent access road, addition of proposed permanent grading limit, and temporary crane pad grading limit and contractor work limit to access and construct Structure M59-T3 on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) Chino Hills (Phase 1) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California. **This Concurrence to Final Engineering is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Concurrence of Final Engineering for modification to a new permanent access road and addition of proposed permanent grading limit, proposed temporary crane pad grading limit, and contractor work limit to access and construct Structure M59-T2 on Segment 8 T/L Chino Hills (Phase 1) of the TRTP, in the City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #11 dated August 12, 2010) by the CPUC, additional engineering design was conducted, resulting in changes to the permanent and temporary disturbance area site features at Structure M59-T3. The new permanent access road is approximately 300 feet long, has a permanent grading limit that ranges between 20 feet and 60 feet wide, and including the crane pad, has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.74 acre.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the work associated with Structure M59-T3 (Project Component) on Segment 8 T/L. Biological resources within the Biological Study Area (BSA - Project Component plus 500-foot buffer) were evaluated during several focused surveys, including 2009, 2010, and 2011 rare plant surveys (AMEC 2009o; ICF 2010at, 2011cq), 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011cq); 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011 riparian bird focused surveys (AMEC 2007c, 2009n; ICF 2010ss, 2011cq); 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 coastal California gnatcatcher focused surveys (AMEC 2008d, 2009m; ICF 2010ww, 2011gq); and 2009 and 2010 burrowing owl focused surveys (AMEC 2009j; ICF 2010xx). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during general biological preconstruction surveys and bat habitat assessment preconstruction surveys within the BSA (ICF 2010ak, 2010cb, 2010ce, 2010ez, 2010fr, 2010fq, 2011y, 2011ad, 2011bu, 2011cd, 2011ce, 2011fi, 2011fo, 2011gx, 2011gy, 2011gz). A literature review was also performed as part of the Biological Review for Segment 8 Phase 1 (Chino Hills) (ICF 2010ar). Combined general biological preconstruction survey and clearance sweeps were performed on September 7, 2011 (ICF 2011gx). Additionally, preconstruction survey sweeps were performed on March 1 and 28, June 23, and August 2, 2011. Construction monitoring has been ongoing regularly since the sites became active and species events and nest events are recorded in the Field Reporting Environmental Database (FRED).

Vegetation communities within the Project Component include coast live oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, ruderal grassland, and disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include California annual grassland, coast live oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, ruderal grassland, and disturbed/developed. Regulated tree species, blue elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*) occurs within the Project Component and 500-foot buffer, and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

The Project Component is not located within occupied habitat or critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) or least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) midden occur within the BSA. Jurisdictional feature 8-38-S-5 occurs within the 500-foot buffer and will be avoided. Special-status biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) staking where applicable.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated November 16, 2011 regarding the TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L Phase I, Variance Request – Road and Structure Additions and Modifications. The memorandum states that no cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed road additions and modifications proposed for Structure M59-T3.

Previous paleontological assessments (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010) prepared for TRTP indicate that paleontological resources have been previously discovered in the vicinity of the areas requested under this variance. Subsurface sediments consists of artificial fill and the Puente Formations; of which only the Puente Formation has a high sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). In accordance with the Paleontological Resource Management Plan (Gust and Scott 2009), paleontological resource monitoring is required during any ground disturbing activities located within the Puente Formations.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- Due to the Puente Formation having high sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources and per the Paleontological Resource Management Plan, paleontological monitoring shall be conducted during any ground disturbing activities associated with this Final Engineering Concurrence.
- 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 Concurrence of Final Engineering shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen