

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 30, 2013

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 #13

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On January 31, 2013, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for additional access roads or modifications and structure shifts on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) East (Phase 3) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the Cities of Chino and Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Additional biological information was submitted on March 11, 2013. **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 additional access roads or modifications and structure shifts on Segment 8 T/L East (Phase 3) of the TRTP, in the Cities of Chino and Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #13 dated August 24, 2010) by the CPUC, final design was completed and several new engineered access road additions or modifications and structure shifts were identified for the project. Specifically, the following new engineered access road additions or modifications and structure shifts have been identified:

Proposed Engineered Access Road Additions or Modifications

1. Modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M66-T4 and remove Structure M32-T5. The new permanent access road is approximately 305 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.118 acre (of this, approximately 0.039 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.
2. Addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structures M6-T3A, M6-T3B, M67-T1, and M67-T2. The new permanent access road is approximately 1,655 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.604 acre (of this, approximately 0.031 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.
3. Addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T3. The new permanent access road is approximately 440 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.177 acre (of this, approximately 0.015 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.

4. Modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T4 and remove Structure M5-T4. The new permanent access road is approximately 295 feet long, approximately 20 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.134 acre (of this, approximately 0.031 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.
5. Modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T5 and remove Structure M5-T3. The new permanent access road is approximately 1,310 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.560 acre (of this, approximately 0.037 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.
6. Modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structures M68-T4 and M68-T5. The new permanent access road is approximately 1,530 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.720 acre (of this, approximately 0.684 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. In addition, a new temporary crane pad has been added adjacent to M68-T5. The temporary crane pad is approximately 50 ft x 50 ft and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.057 acre. Additionally, the proposed structure work area for Structure M68-T5 has shifted approximately 120 feet to the west to accompany the proposed structure shift. The proposed structure work area is approximately 0.0689 acre (of this, approximately 0.394 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). City of Ontario.
7. Addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M69-T5. The new permanent access road is approximately 895 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.352 acre (of this, approximately 0.290 acre is new disturbance not previously approved in the NTP). The previously approved access road will be replaced with the newly proposed access road. City of Chino.
8. Addition of existing access road to access and construct Structure M69-T1. The access road is approximately 120 feet long. This proposed existing access road will require a medium level of improvement, such as blading, removal of deeper ruts, and washouts. The previously approved (NTP) engineered permanent access road is no longer needed, and the proposed existing access road, included herein, will provide appropriate access. City of Ontario.
9. Addition of existing access road to access and construct Structure M69-T3. The access road is approximately 55 feet long. This proposed existing access road will require a medium level of improvement, such as blading, removal of deeper ruts, and washouts. The previously approved (NTP) engineered permanent access road is no longer needed, and the proposed existing access road, included herein, will provide appropriate access. City of Ontario.

Proposed Structure Shifts

Structure (Mile – Tower)	Proposed Shift (ft) (approximate)
M67-T4	8 ft northeast (8 ft north, 2 ft east)
M67-T5	7 ft northeast (7 ft north, 2 ft east)
M68-T1	6 ft northeast (6 ft north, 2 ft east)
M68-T2	9 ft northeast (8 ft north, 4 ft east)
M68-T3	9 ft northeast (9 ft north, 1 ft east)
M68-T4	13 ft northeast (11 ft north, 7 ft east)
M68-T5	43 ft northwest (12 ft north, 41 ft west)
M69-T1	15 ft northwest (14 ft north, 5 ft west)
M69-T2	20 ft northeast (17 ft north, 12 ft east)
M69-T3	23 ft northeast (18 ft north, 13 ft east)
M69-T4	25 ft northeast (20 ft north, 15 ft east)
M69-T5	27 ft northeast (21 ft north, 16 ft east)
M70-T1	23 ft northeast (23 ft north, 3 ft east)
M70-T2	24 ft northeast (24 ft north, 1 ft east)

M70-T3	33 ft northeast (26 ft north, 21 ft east)
M70-T4	37 ft northwest (26 ft north, 25 ft west)
M70-T5	28 ft northeast (26 ft north, 10 ft east)
M70-T6	19 ft northwest (19 ft north, 3 ft west)
M71-T1	28 ft northwest (27 ft north, 7 ft west)
M71-T2	37 ft northeast (37 ft north, 3 ft east)
M71-T3	54 ft northwest (3 ft north, 54 ft west)
M71-T4	72 ft southwest (2 ft south, 72 ft west)
M71-T5	89 ft southwest (6ft south, 89 ft west)

- Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resources report from ICF International dated January 2, 2013 regarding the *Proposed Changes in Engineering, Segment 8 Phase III, TRTP, Los Angeles County*. The report documents the biological conditions at 24 sites throughout Segment 8 Phase III (Variance Project Component) and the 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]). Biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during several focused surveys, including 2009, 2010, and 2011 rare plant surveys (AMEC 2009o; ICF 2010at, 2011hc); 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011hd); 2011 and 2012 riparian bird focused surveys (ICF 2011fx; FRED Survey Parent 000004); and 2009 and 2010 burrowing owl focused surveys (AMEC 2009j; ICF 2010xx). The biological resources within portions of the BSA (including Sites 1-5 and 24) were also evaluated during general biological preconstruction surveys, burrowing owl preconstruction surveys, and bat habitat assessment preconstruction surveys within the BSA (ICF 2010dv, 2010fi, 2010gh, 2010gr, 2011w, 2011bc, 2011be, 2011ib, 2011id, 2011il, 2011gh, 2011gr). A literature review was also performed as part of the Biological Review for Segment 8 East (Phase II and Phase III) (ICF 2010aw). Combined general biological preconstruction survey and clearance sweeps were performed at Sites 1 and 24 on September 15, 2011 and November 2, 2011 (ICF 2011if, 2011ig). Additionally, preconstruction survey sweeps were performed on March 17, 18, and 25, 2011, and September 15, 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). Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluated during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). Jurisdictional features mapped within the BSA will be avoided by the Variance Project Component. Any additional potential jurisdictional features will be staked and flagged as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for avoidance.

Additional general biological preconstruction surveys and burrowing owl preconstruction surveys will be required prior to initiation of construction at the following work areas: WSS 8-3.8, M68-T1 and M5-T2 (Site 10), WSS 8-3.9, M68-T2 and M5-T1 (Site 11), M68-T3 (Site 12), M4-T4, M68-T4 (Site 6), M4-T3, M68-T5 (Site 6), M4-T2, M69-T1 (Site 8), M69-T2 and M4-T1 (Site 13), M69-T3 and M3-T4 (Site 9), WSS 8-3.10, M69-T4, M3-T3, M69-T5 (Site 7), M70-T1 (Site 14), M70-T2 (Site 15), M3-T1, M70-T3 (Site 16), WSS 8-3.11, M70-T4 and M2-T5 (Site 17), WSS 8-3.12, M70-T5 (Site 18), M70-T6 (Site 19), M71-T1 (Site 20), M71-T2 and M2-T1 (Site 21), M71-T3 (Site 22), and M71-T4 (Site 23).

Site 1 – Modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M66-T4 and remove Structure M32-T5. Vegetation communities within the Project Component and the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed. Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include Cooper’s hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Active and inactive burrowing owl nests and artificial and or enhanced burrowing owl burrows occur within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional feature 8-58-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 2 – Addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structures M6-T3A, M6-T3B, M67-T1, and M67-T2. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, mule fat scrub, ruderal grassland, ruderal wetland, and sparsely vegetated streambed. Special-status plant species, Santa Barbara morning glory (*Calystegia sepium* ssp. *binghamiae*), occurs within the 500-foot buffer. Special-

status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Potential burrowing owl features occur within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional feature 8-51-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 3 – Addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T3. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, and ruderal grassland. Special-status wildlife species observed within the BSA include burrowing owl, and peregrine falcon. Potential burrowing owl features occur within the BSA.

Site 4 – Shift of Structure M67-T4 8 feet northeast and modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T4 and remove Structure M5-T4. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include agriculture. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and ruderal grassland. Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Potential burrowing owl features occur within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional feature 8-52-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 5 – Shift of Structure M67-T5 7 feet northeast and modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M67-T5 and remove Structure M5-T3. Vegetation communities within the Project Component and the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, and ruderal grassland. Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include Swainson's hawk and peregrine falcon. Potential burrowing owl features occur within the BSA. Jurisdictional feature 8-52-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 6 – Shift of Structure M68-T4 13 feet northeast, shift of Structure M68-T5 43 feet northwest, and modification to new permanent access road to access and construct Structures M68-T4 and M68-T5. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include burrowing owl and potential burrowing owl features occur within the BSA. Jurisdictional features 8-54-P-403, 8-54-P-404, 8-54-P-405, 8-54-P-406, 8-54-P-407, 8-54-P-408, 8-54-P-409, 8-54-P-410, 8-54-P-411, 8-54-P-436 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 7 – Shift of Structure M69-T5 27 feet northeast and addition of new permanent access road to access and construct Structure M69-T5. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include agriculture and disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. Potential burrowing owl features occur within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features 8-55-P-414 and 8-55-P-418 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 8 – Shift of Structure M69-T1 15 feet northwest and addition of existing access road to access and construct Structure M69-T1. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed and water. Special-status wildlife species, burrowing owl, have been observed within the 500-foot buffer and potential burrowing owl features occur within the BSA.

Site 9 – Shift of Structure M69-T3 23 feet northeast, shift of Structure M69-T3 25 feet northeast, and addition of existing access road to access and construct Structure M69-T3. Vegetation communities within the Project Component and the 500-foot buffer include agriculture and disturbed/developed. Potential burrowing owl features occur within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features 8-55-A-402, 8-55-P-413, and 8-55-P-414 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 10 – Shift of Structure M68-T1 6 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component and the 500-foot buffer include agriculture and disturbed/developed. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 11 – Shift of Structure M68-T2 9 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture and disturbed/developed. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 12 – Shift of Structure M68-T3 9 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and ruderal grassland. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 13 – Shift of Structure M69-T2 20 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 14 – Shift of Structure M70-T1 23 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. Jurisdictional features 8-55-P-418 and 8-55-P-419 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 15 – Shift of Structure M70-T2 24 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. Jurisdictional feature 8-56-P-419 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 16 – Shift of Structure M70-T3 33 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 17 – Shift of Structure M70-T4 37 feet northwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, and ruderal grassland. Jurisdictional feature 8-56-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 18 – Shift of Structure M70-T5 28 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include agriculture. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture and disturbed/developed. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 19 – Shift of Structure M70-T6 19 feet northwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include agriculture. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, and nonnative woodland. No other resources occur or have been observed within the BSA.

Site 20 – Shift of Structure M71-T1 28 feet northwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include agriculture. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and water. Special-status wildlife species, burrowing owl, have been observed within the 500-foot buffer. Burrowing owl inactive nests and features have also been

observed within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features, 8-58-P-428, 8-58-P-429, 8-58-P-440, 8-58-P-441, occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 21 – Shift of Structure M71-T2 37 feet northeast. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, sparsely vegetated streambed, and water. An inactive burrowing owl nest occurs within the Project Component, and an inactive red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest occurs within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features 8-58-S-1, 8-58-S-2, 8-58-W-1, 8-58-P-427, and 8-58-P-428, occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 22 – Shift of Structure M71-T3 54 feet northwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. Special-status wildlife species, burrowing owl, have been observed within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features 8-58-S-2, 8-58-W-2, 8-58-P-427, and 8-58-P-430, occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 23 – Shift of Structure M71-T4 72 feet southwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed and water. Special-status wildlife species, burrowing owl, have been observed within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features 8-58-W-2 and 8-58-P-430 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 24 – Shift of Structure M71-T5 89 feet southwest. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and water. Jurisdictional features 8-58-P-430 and 8-58-P-431 occur within the 500-foot buffer.

The Variance Project Component does not overlap suitable habitat for special-status species as included in the CDFW Incidental Take Permit (ITP) or the USFWS Biological Opinion (BO). Impacts associated with this Final Engineering Concurrence includes: approximately 0.014 acres of additional temporary impacts. Temporary impacts will be mitigated on-site per the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and APM BIO-1a, as well as SWPPP requirements, weed control (Mitigation Measure [MM] B-3a), dust control (MM AQ-1a), and visual resources (MM V-1 and APM AES-8 and APM AES-13). Any permanent impacts to special-status vegetation communities and special-status species habitat will be mitigated off-site per agreements with CDFW and USFWS, and Applicant Proposed Mitigation (APM) BIO-7.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated January 22, 2013, titled SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resources Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – Segment 8 T/L West Phase III – Addition or Modification of New Engineered Roads and Structure Shifts. The memorandum states that no historic resources, historic properties or significant paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed new engineered access road additions or modifications and structure shifts in support of the TRTP. All of the proposed engineered access roads fall entirely within the cultural resources records searches for TRTP (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a, 2010b, Wetherbee 2011). The previous cultural resources inventory efforts show that one isolated historic-era resource (PL-SCE-Seg8-01) crosses Road #5 identified in this Final Engineering Concurrence request. As an isolated resource, PL-SCE-Seg8-01 does not warrant further management. All but two of the proposed roads (labeled as Roads #6 and #7) were investigated in previous cultural resources field surveys (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a, 2010b, Wetherbee 2011). Therefore, a supplemental cultural resources survey was performed for these proposed roads by Tria Belcourt, M.A., RPA of Cogstone Resource Management, Inc. on January 22, 2013, which resulted in negative findings (Belcourt 2013). All proposed structure shifts

are covered by previous cultural resources records searches and surveys for TRTP (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a).

Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the soil type at the proposed location as Quaternary Alluvium (Gust and Scott 2009). Quaternary Alluvium is considered as having low sensitivity for yielding significant paleontological resources. Based on the above information, no further cultural resources assessment or monitoring is required to support this variance request. Paleontological monitoring is also not required during ground disturbance associated with this variance request.

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 Notice to Proceed (NTP) #13 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #13, 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