

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 8, 2015

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 February 20, 2015, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the relocation or lowering of 66 kV, distribution, and telecommunications (telecom) lines to provide additional clearance for the Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) East (Phase 3) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Additional biological information was provided on April 7, 2015. **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 the relocation or lowering of 66 kV, distribution, and telecom lines to provide additional clearance for the Segment 8 T/L East (Phase 3) of the TRTP, in the Cities of Ontario and Chino, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #13 dated August 24, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and 66 kV, distribution, and telecom lines will be lowered or relocated underground to provide additional clearance for the Segment 8 transmission line that passes over these existing lines. Descriptions of the construction activities are provided below.

Distribution Relocation Along Bon View Avenue

The overhead distribution line situated west of Bon View Avenue will be relocated to existing underground duct bank on the east side of Bon View Avenue. Construction will include access to adjacent poles, the removal of two poles and 830 feet of wire, the modification of two poles, and the installation of the following features:

- 3 new poles
- 2 vaults
- Approximately 245 feet of new overhead distribution line
- Approximately 715 feet of new cable in existing underground duct bank

Distribution Relocation Along Walker Avenue

The overhead distribution line on the east side of Walker Avenue will be relocated underground in new duct bank. Construction will include access to adjacent poles, the removal of approximately 465 feet of overhead line, the removal of 3 hand holes, and the installation of the following features:

- 2 poles
- 2 vaults
- 2 hand holes
- Approximately 505 feet of cable in new underground duct bank

## 66 kV, Distribution, and Telecom Relocation near Archibald Avenue and Schaefer Avenue

- Distribution Pole Replacement. Pole 4384713E, southwest of Structure M71-T3, will be removed and replaced by two interest poles (4817912E and 4817913E). Crews will also access the adjacent poles in this area to allow proper grounding.
- Lowering Existing Distribution and Telecom Lines. The distribution and telecom lines situated north of the CPUC-approved access road and Structure M71-T4 will be lowered to provide clearance for the Segment 8 T/L. Crews will also access the adjacent poles in this area to allow proper grounding and re-installation of the lines, and access two existing vaults on the east side of Archibald Avenue to conduct switching activities.
- 66 kV Relocation in New Underground Duct Bank. The new duct bank will begin between Structures M71-T4 and M71-T5, and extend to the east to the terminus near the intersection of Archibald Avenue and Schaefer Avenue. Construction will include installation of the following features:
  - 1 new pole at each end of the route (2 poles total)
  - 2 vaults
  - Approximately 589 feet of new underground duct bank and cable.

The proposed work areas associated with these activities comprise approximately 13.927 acres. The work areas overlap several CPUC-approved disturbance areas and, as such, the total new disturbance area is approximately 9.964 acres.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological report from ICF International dated February 17, 2015 with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence. The report documents the biological conditions at the proposed Segment 8 T/L East (Phase II and III) 66 kV, Distribution, and Telecom Line Relocation and Lowering (Variance Project Component), and associated 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]). Biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during several focused surveys, including 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011 special-status plant surveys (AMEC 2007a, 2009o; ICF 2010at, 2011hc); 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011hd); 2011, 2012, and 2013 riparian bird focused surveys (ICF 2011fx; FRED Parent Survey 000004 and 000023), and 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011 burrowing owl surveys (AMEC 2008b, 2009a, 2009j; ICF 2010xx, 2011jm). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during Segment 8 general preconstruction surveys, burrowing owl preconstruction surveys, and preconstruction bat habitat assessment surveys (ICF 2010du, 2010dv, 2011fd, 2011ig, 2011ik, 2011im; FRED Survey Parent 000017, 000026). A literature review was also performed as part of the Biological Review for Segment 8 East (Phase 2 and 3) (ICF 2010aw). Additionally, clearance sweeps were performed prior to the start of construction. A clearance sweep will also be conducted prior to construction of the Variance Project component. Construction monitoring has been ongoing regularly since the sites became active, and species events and nest events are recorded in the SCE Field Reporting Environmental Database (FRED; SCE 2014a).

### Site 1: Distribution Relocation along Bon View Avenue

Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component and the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. No special-status plant species or regulated trees occur within the BSA. Special-status wildlife species observed within the Variance Project include burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Potential burrowing owl features occur within the BSA, and bat habitat occurs within the Variance Project Component.

### Site 2: Distribution Relocation along Walker Avenue

Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component include disturbed/developed and water. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal grassland, and water. No special-status plant species or regulated trees occur within the BSA. Special-status wildlife observed within the Variance Project Component includes a Northern harrier. Special-status wildlife observed within the 500-foot buffer includes burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk, and Northern harrier. Burrowing owl features occur within the BSA, and bat habitat occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

### Site 3: 66 kV, Distribution, and Telecom Relocation near Archibald Avenue and Schaefer Avenue

Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component include agriculture, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and water. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, disturbed/developed, mule fat scrub, ruderal grassland, nonnative woodland, and water. No special-status plants or regulated trees occur within the BSA. Special-status wildlife observed within the Variance Project Component includes Northern harrier. Special-status wildlife observed within the 500-foot buffer includes burrowing owl, Northern harrier, pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), white-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), and yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Burrowing owl features have been observed within the BSA. Jurisdictional features 8-58-S-1, 8-58-S-2, 8-58-W-1, and 8-58-W-2 occur within the 500-foot buffer, but will be avoided.

Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluated during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h).

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). This proposed RFEC would result in a total of 9.964 acres of new disturbance, including 0.105 acre of new permanent disturbance (excludes former temporary disturbance) and 9.859 acres of new temporary disturbance. Note that this RFEC includes changing approximately 0.149 acre of previously approved temporary disturbance area into areas of permanent disturbance. 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). 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 12, 2015 titled *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L East Phase 2 and 3 Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – 66 kV, Distribution, and Telecommunications Line Relocation and Lowering*. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the RFEC in support of the TRTP Segment 8 East Phase 2 and 3. The proposed areas identified in this RFEC were included in previous surveys for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified at these locations (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a-b; Belcourt 2013).

Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the proposed areas identified in this RFEC are located within Quaternary alluvium (Qa) (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). Based on the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, Quaternary alluvium is considered low sensitivity for harboring significant paleontological resources.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Boccio", written in a cursive style.

John Boccio  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen