

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



September 30, 2016

Ryan Stevenson  
Principal Advisor  
Regulatory Policy & Affairs  
Southern California Edison  
8631 Rush Street, General Office 4 - G100 (Ground Floor)  
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Final Engineering Concurrence to NTP #13

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On September 23, 2016, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Request for Final Engineering Concurrence (RFEC) for the Schaefer Avenue 66 kV and distribution lines relocation along the Segment 8 East Transmission Line (Phases II and III) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Additional information was submitted September 28 and 30, 2016.

**This Concurrence to Final Engineering is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #13 dated August 24, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and a 66 kV line and distribution lines will be relocated to provide additional clearance for the Segment 8 transmission line (T/L) that passes over these existing lines. A description of the construction activities is provided below.

The 66 kV line between Structures M71-T4 and M71-T5 will be relocated to provide clearance for the Segment 8 T/L. The length of conductor being relocated is approximately 480'. This work will require new permanent grading as well as the following activities:

- Installation of 5 new wood poles
- Installation of 2 down guy anchors for proposed pole 4841918E
- Installation of 2 down guy anchors for proposed pole 4841919E
- Lowering existing pole 4328711E
- Removal of poles 4328710E and 4818460

In addition, the distribution line will be relocated from a pole to be removed, pole 4328710E, to proposed new pole 4841918E. The new pole line is approximately 25' to the north of the old pole line.

The proposed engineering changes consist of the following:

- Permanent Disturbance: approximately 0.102 acre within CPUC-approved disturbance area, including 0.096 acre that will change from temporary to permanent impacts

- Temporary Disturbance: approximately 1.160 acres, including approximately 0.754 acre of new disturbance area (i.e., beyond CPUC-approved area)
- **Biological Resources:** SCE provided a biological report dated September 28, 2016 by ICF International, Inc. The report documents the biological conditions at the proposed Segment 8 T/L East 66 kV line and distribution line relocation (Project Component), and associated 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]). Biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during several focused surveys, including 2011, 2012, and 2013 riparian bird surveys (ICF 2011fx; SCE 2014a FRED Survey Parent 000004, 000023, 000048, 000061, 000070); 2010 burrowing owl surveys (ICF 2010xx); 2010 and 2011 special-status plant surveys (ICF 2010at, 2011hc); and 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011hd). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during the Segment 8 East general preconstruction surveys, burrowing owl preconstruction surveys, and preconstruction bat habitat assessment surveys (ICF 2010dt, 2010du, 2010dv, 2010fi, 2010fj, 2011bg, 2011id, 2011ig, 2011ii, 2011ij, 2011im; FRED Survey Parent 000026). Additionally, clearance sweeps were performed prior to the start of construction. A literature review was also performed as part of the Biological Review for Segment 8 East (ICF 2010aw). A clearance sweep will also be conducted prior to construction of the Project Component. Construction monitoring has been ongoing regularly since the sites became active. Species events and nest events are recorded in FRED (SCE 2014a).

Vegetation communities within the Project Component include nonnative woodland, disturbed/developed, and open water. Vegetation communities within the BSA include agriculture, nonnative woodland, disturbed/developed, and open water. No special-status plant species or regulated tree species occur within the BSA. Special-status wildlife species have been observed within the 500-foot buffer and include: burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), white faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*). Inactive burrowing owl nests have been observed within the BSA.

The 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).

Jurisdictional resources within the Project Component were evaluated during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). Jurisdictional resource 8-58-W-2 occurs within the 500-foot buffer (open water).

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum titled *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines Segment 8 T/L East (Phases II and III) – Schaefer Avenue 66 kV and Distribution Lines Relocation, City of Ontario, San Bernardino County* dated September 27, 2016. The report states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the RFEC. The work areas associated with the proposed RFEC were previously surveyed for cultural resources (Pacific Legacy 2007). No cultural resources were identified as a result of these surveys.

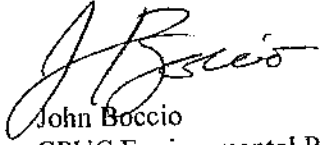
Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the proposed area is located within Quaternary alluvium (Qa) (Gust and Scott 2009). This geologic unit has a low potential for containing paleontological resources. In addition, the nature of the work (drilling for pole installation) is not conducive to yielding fossils as the material is pulverized before reaching the surface.

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 the Segment 8 East T/L (Phases II and III) 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