

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



September 17, 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: Final Engineering Concurrence

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On September 17, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the installation of a fence along the top of the retaining wall along the access road to Construct 42 on Segment 5 Transmission Line (T/L), of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Los Angeles County, California. **This Final Engineering Concurrence is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests Final Engineering Concurrence for the installation of a fence along the top of the retaining wall along the access road to Construct 42 on Segment 5 T/L of the TRTP in Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to approval of the NTPR (NTP #15 dated September 10, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated. For safety purposes, a fence is included in the final engineering design for Segment 5 T/L Construct (CT) 42. As part of the construction activities for the access road northeast of CT 42, a retaining wall was previously constructed along the northeast side of the road. For safety purposes, a chain-link fence is needed along the top of the retaining wall. The fence would measure approximately 120 linear feet long and approximately 4.5 feet high. The fence would be constructed of galvanized steel.

- **Biological Resources:** The proposed fence (Project Component) is situated within an existing CPUC-approved disturbance area. The Project Component and a 500-foot buffer were previously surveyed as part of the Segment 5 T/L for TRTP. The Project Component consists of disturbed/developed land. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include Mojave mixed woody scrub, California annual grassland, and disturbed/developed. Special-status plant species, Peirson's morning glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*) and short-joint beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*), occur within the 500-foot buffer. A jurisdictional feature occurs within the 500-foot buffer but will not be affected by the proposed fence installation.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum titled SCE TRTP Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – Proposed Fence at Construct 42, Segment 5, Palmdale, Los Angeles County, Cultural Clearance. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed fence installation at Construct 42 on Segment 5 T/L as part of this Request for Final Engineering Concurrence in support of the TRTP. A cultural record search and survey (Pacific Legacy 2007), and a paleontological literature review (Gust and Scott 2009) have been previously conducted for

this area of Segment 5 T/L. This research indicates that no cultural resources will be impacted. Two historic transmission lines cross the requested area (Antelope-Mesa 220kV and Antelope-Vincent 220kV). The Antelope-Mesa 220kV line was evaluated and determined ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR in 2010. The Antelope-Vincent 220kV Transmission Line is a contributing element to the NRHP Big Creek system. The removal of this line is currently being addressed in a Historic Properties Treatment Plan that is part of ongoing agency consultation. Both lines have been removed from this portion of Segment 5 T/L and cannot be affected by the proposed fence installation. This research also shows that the proposed fence overlies Pelona Schist, which is classified as having a low sensitivity for yielding 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 NTP #15 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #15, and this Final Engineering Concurrence to NTP #15 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

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

Lon Payne
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen