

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 20, 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 to NTP #15

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On December 19, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the installation of access road stormwater drains near Constructs 19 and 35 on Segment 5 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in Los Angeles 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 the installation of access road stormwater drains near Constructs 19 and 35 on Segment 5 T/L of the TRTP, in Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #15 dated September 10, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated. To appropriately manage stormwater runoff and minimize erosion, stormwater drains are included in the final engineering design for the access roads at Segment 5 Constructs 19 and 35.

Two stormwater drains (flume/gabion systems) would be installed, one along the northwest side of the access road to CT 19 and one along the northeast side of the access road to CT 35. The drains are needed to control and divert stormwater from the access road, thereby reducing soil erosion potential.

The stormwater drains would be situated within CPUC-approved disturbance areas. The permanent disturbance areas associated with the drains would measure approximately 0.006 acre (CT 19) and 0.009 acre (CT 35) (approximately 0.015 acre total).

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resources information with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence. The stormwater drains are situated within existing CPUC-approved disturbance areas and previously surveyed portions of the Segment 5 T/L work area. The habitat types at each proposed work area are as follows:

CT 19. Vegetation communities in the areas surrounding the CT 19 disturbance areas include Mojavean juniper woodland scrub and Mojave mixed woody scrub; previously developed/disturbed areas also occur nearby. As of December 19, 2012, no burrows, active resources, or CDFG jurisdictional drainages have been identified within the 500-foot biological survey area buffer.

CT 35. Vegetation communities near the CT 35 disturbance areas include California annual grassland, Mojave mixed woody scrub, ruderal grassland, and California annual grassland – wildflower field; previously developed/disturbed areas also occur nearby. As of December 19, 2012, one inactive

(unoccupied) burrow (Nest ID 2458) is situated approximately 275 feet south of the proposed stormwater drain, and several CDFG jurisdictional drainages are situated east and southeast of the proposed stormwater drain location (nearest is approximately 50 feet east). No other active resources are located within the 500-foot biological survey area buffer.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum regarding the TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 5, Installation of Storm Water Drains at CT 19 and CT 35 Request for Final Engineering Concurrence. The memorandum states that no significant cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the installation of two storm water drains associated with SCE's TRTP Segment 5 T/L. Previous surveys and records searches for the TRTP project included the proposed work area (Ahmet et al, 2006; Pacific Legacy 2007; Pacific Legacy et al. 2010). One cultural resource, the historic-era Antelope Mesa 220 kV transmission line, lies in the vicinity of this area. This resource was formally evaluated and determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) (Urbana 2010). The transmission line will not be impacted as a result of the proposed work along CT 19 and CT 35. Therefore, an archaeological monitor is not required during the proposed work activities.

The paleontological assessments for the TRTP indicate that the geology of the proposed work area is characterized by the Pelona schist. This type of rock has a very low potential for yielding paleontological resources. Therefore, paleontological monitoring is not required during the proposed work.

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) #15 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #15, 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