

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 30, 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: Modification #5 to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #15

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On March 22, 2012, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #15 for the installation of two stormwater drains along the access road between Constructs 48 and 49 on Segment 5 Transmission Line (T/L), of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in Los Angeles County, California. **This Modification #5 to NTP #15 is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #15 to add a temporary disturbance area on Segment 5 T/L of the TRTP in Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #15 dated September 10, 2010) for Segment 5 T/L by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and additional permanent disturbance areas are needed along the north side of the access road between Constructs 48 and 49. These areas are needed to install two stormwater drains to control and divert stormwater from the access road, thereby reducing soil erosion potential. The permanent disturbance areas associated with the drains would measure approximately 0.026 acre (western drain) and 0.02 acre (eastern drain) with a total of 0.046 acre.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological resources report from ICF dated March 22, 2012 titled *Proposed Installation of Access Road Stormwater Drains Near Constructs 48 and 49, Segment 5, Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Los Angeles County*. The report documents the biological conditions at the proposed additional disturbance areas near Constructs 48 and 49 on Segment 5 T/L (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 2009c; ICF 2010ag, 2011gu); 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010bf, 2011ga); and 2009 and 2010 burrowing owl surveys (AMEC 2009f; ICF 2010cq1). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during Segment 5 general preconstruction surveys and preconstruction bat habitat assessment surveys (ICF 2010bq, 2010bs). A literature review was also performed as part of the Biological Review for Segment 5 (ICF 2010yy). Additionally, clearance sweeps were performed on October 18, 2010. Construction monitoring has been ongoing regularly since the site became active, and species events and nest events are recorded in the SCE Field Reporting Environmental Database (FRED).

Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component include scrub oak chaparral. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include Mojave mixed woody scrub, scrub oak chaparral, California annual grassland, and disturbed/developed. Special-status plant species within the 500-foot buffer include

Peirson's morning glory, *Calystegia peirsonii* (AMEC 2009c; ICF 2010ag, 2011gu). Regulated tree species within the 500-foot buffer include Tucker's oak, *Quercus john-tuckeri* (ICF 2010bf). No special-status wildlife species occurs within the Variance Project Component. The additional permanent impact is 0.046 acre in scrub oak chaparral.

Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluated during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 4, 5, and 10 (ICF 2010l). No mapped jurisdictional features are located within the Variance Project Component. Jurisdictional features identified within the 500-foot buffer will be avoided (ICF 2010l). Any additional potential jurisdictional features will be staked as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and flagged for avoidance.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance and the conditions noted below.

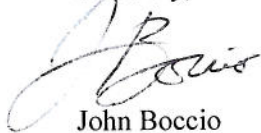
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum with the variance request regarding the *TRTP Variance Request – Additional Permanent Disturbance Area Between Construct 48 and Construct 49 Cultural Clearance for Installation of Two (2) Flumes and Gabions on Segment 5, Palmdale, Los Angeles County*. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed flumes and gabions in between Constructs 48 and 49 on Segment 5 as part of this variance request 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. This research indicates that the requested variance is located within an area previously surveyed for the TRTP and shows that no cultural resources will be impacted. This research also shows that the additional disturbance area overlies Pelona Schist that is classified as having a low paleontological sensitivity.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance and the conditions noted below.

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 Modification #5 to NTP #15 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen