

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 14, 2013

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 #17

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On March 12, 2013, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence to re-route existing trails around Structures M39-T4 and M39-T5 on Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in unincorporated 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 re-route of existing trails around Structures M39-T4 and M39-T5 on Segment 7 T/L of the TRTP, in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #17 dated September 24, 2010) by the CPUC, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation requested the re-route of existing trails (walking paths) around newly construction Structures M39-T4 and M39-T5. These re-routed trails will be consistent with the character of the existing trails. New proposed permanent grading limits and new proposed contractor work limits, associated with the trail re-routes, have also been included. The new trail re-route around Structure M39-T4 is approximately 275 feet long, has a permanent grading limit that is approximately 15 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.316 acre. The new trail re-route around Structure M39-T5 is approximately 200 feet long, has a permanent grading limit that is approximately 15 feet wide, and has a total disturbance area of approximately 0.247 acre.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resource information with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence. The Segment 7 T/L Structure M39-T4 and M39-T5 Trail Re-route (Project Component) is located within previously surveyed portions of the Segment 7 T/L. The Project Component is located almost entirely within previously approved TRTP work areas. The portion of the Project Component that is located outside these approved limits is within non-native woodland (i.e., park) habitat. Vegetation communities and biological resources located within 500 feet of the Project Component include additional developed land and non-native woodland, open water, fresh water marsh, southern sycamore alder riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, disturbed wetland, disturbed southern willow scrub, southern willow scrub, and ruderal (ICF 2012). These surrounding vegetation communities will not be impacted by the Project Component.

Special-status wildlife species observed within 500 feet of the Project Component include American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), redhead (*Aythya americana*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), merlin (*Falco*

columbarius), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). As of March 11, 2013, Bushtit 4405 nest and Bushtit 4409 nest are located within the Project Component. Several other active nests are located within 500 feet of the Project Component. The Project Component is not located within occupied habitat or critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher or least Bell's vireo. The following surveys have been conducted in the area: bat habitat assessment (November 4, 2010), and biological preconstruction and sweep (January 18-21, 2011, August 3, 2011, August 24, 2011). Potential bat habitat has been mapped within and adjacent to the Project Component. Special-status biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking, where applicable.

A jurisdictional resource is located adjacent to the Project Component but will not be impacted by the Project Component. No permit amendment is required.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated March 12, 2013 regarding the SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 7 T/L, Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – M39-T4 and M39-T5 Trail Re-Route. The memorandum states that no historical resources, historic properties or significant paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed trail re-routes at M39-T4 and M39-T5, in support of Segment 7 of the TRTP. All proposed areas fall entirely within the cultural resources records searches and previously surveyed area for TRTP (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2010d). The previous cultural resources inventory efforts show that two historic-era transmission lines (Antelope-Mesa 220kV and Rio Hondo-Amador-Jose-Mesa 66kV) cross the areas in this request for final engineering concurrence. These lines were evaluated and determined ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR in 2010. Therefore, no further cultural resources assessment or monitoring is required to support this request for final engineering concurrence.


Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the soil types at the proposed locations as Quaternary Alluvium, which is considered low potential for yielding significant paleontological resources. Paleontological monitoring is not required during ground disturbance to support this request for final engineering concurrence.

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) #17 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #17, 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