

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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July 18, 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 July 8, 2013, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the modifications of a new permanent access road to Structure M27-T3, grading limits, and contractor work limits on the Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Duarte, 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 modifications of a new permanent access road to Structure M27-T3, grading limits, and contractor work limits on Segment 7 T/L of the TRTP, in the City of Duarte, Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #17 dated September 24, 2010) and Variance (Modification #2 to NTP #17 dated July 18, 2011) by the CPUC, final design was completed and the new permanent access road to Structure M27-T3 was modified. Additionally, proposed permanent grading limits and contractor work limits have been updated. The new permanent access road is approximately 1,750 feet long, has a permanent grading limit that ranges between 20 feet and 125 feet wide, and has a total disturbance of approximately 3.976 acres (of this, approximately 1.306 acres is new disturbance not previously approved in NTP/Variance). This new proposed permanent access road is located in the City of Duarte, County of Los Angeles.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resource information with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence. The Segment 7 T/L Structure M27-T3 (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 developed, coast live oak woodland, and coastal sage scrub. Vegetation communities located within 500 feet of the Project Component include additional developed, coast live oak woodland, and coastal sage scrub and non-native woodland (ICF 2012). These surrounding vegetation communities will not be impacted by the Project Component. The Project Component is not located within occupied habitat or critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) or least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

Special-status wildlife species observed in or within 500 feet of the Project Component include San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) and coast range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*). As of June 4, 2013, no active nests are located within the Project Component or a 500-foot buffer. Bat habitat assessment surveys were conducted November 4, 2010, and biological preconstruction surveys and sweeps were

conducted November 3, 2010, January 21, 2011, and April 7, 2011. Special-status biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking, where applicable. Construction has been on-going in this area since September 2011 (i.e., wire removal).

Jurisdictional drainage resources identified within or adjacent to the Project Component include 7-3-S-2, 7-3-S-7, 7-3-S-8, 7-3-S-6, 7-3A-S-5, 7-3-S-9, and 7-3-S-1. Feature 7-3-S-9 is characterized as an existing McCarthy drain and will be protected in place. Wetland permit applications for the proposed impact on Feature 7-3-S-1 were submitted to the regulatory agencies on April 5, 2013 and authorization is expected in August 2013. Impacts to the other features are permitted under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and Section 1602 of the CDFW Code.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated June 13, 2013 regarding the SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 7 T/L, Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – M27-T3 New Permanent Access Road, Grading Limit, and Contractor Work Limit Modifications. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the new permanent access road, grading limit, and contractor work limit modifications associated with Structure M27-T3, in support of the TRTP. Although the additional areas fall outside the previously surveyed corridor for cultural resources, they do fall within the records search area for TRTP, which yielded no previously recorded cultural resources. Furthermore, the additional area measuring roughly 0.4 acres lies adjacent to previously surveyed areas in support of the original corridor survey (Pacific Legacy 2007), a supplemental survey (Pacific Legacy 2010), and a previous Variance Request (PCR 2011). None of these surveys yielded significant resources and due to the hilly terrain and dense vegetation, the reviewing agencies have concurred that the current request does not require additional survey (personal communication with Applied Earthworks and ANF on 4/30 and 5/01, respectively). The previous cultural survey shows one historic transmission line (Antelope-Mesa 220 kV) crossing the additional work area. This line was evaluated and determined ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR in 2010.

Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the sediment types in this area as quartz diorite, quaternary older fill, landslide deposits, and quaternary alluvium (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). ~~These types of sediments are considered as having very low sensitivity for yielding significant paleontological resources.~~

No cultural or paleontological resources impacts are anticipated as a result of this Request for Final Engineering Concurrence.

**The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:**

- SCE shall provide a copy of the City of Duarte grading permit to the CPUC prior to the start of construction.
- SCE shall provide a copy of regulatory agency authorizations for wetland permit applications for the proposed impact jurisdictional drainage Feature 7-3-S-1 prior to the start of construction.
- 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken Lewis".

Ken Lewis  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen