

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 17, 2014

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 December 18, 2013, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the modifications of new permanent grading limits and temporary contractor work area associated with the road to Structure M27-T2 on the Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Duarte, Los Angeles County, California. Additional information was provided by SCE on January 14, 2014. **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 new permanent grading limits and temporary contractor work area associated with the road to Structure M27-T2 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) by the CPUC, final design was completed, which resulted in new permanent grading limits and temporary contractor work area associated with the road to Structure M27-T2. These features will remain within the CPUC-approved disturbance area limits. The proposed grading limits comprise a total additional permanent disturbance of approximately 0.58 acre. There are no additional temporary impacts. 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 new permanent grading limit and temporary contractor work limit associated with the road to Structure M27-T2 (Project Component) on Segment 7 T/L is located partially within the previously approved work area for Structure M27-T2 and within previously surveyed portions of the Segment 7 T/L. The Project Component is characterized as a combination of disturbed/developed and coastal sage scrub. Vegetation communities located within 500 feet of the Project Component include disturbed/developed, coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, and mixed chaparral (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 (*Polioptila californica*) or least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Special-status and regulated tree species observed in the Project Component or within the 500-foot buffer include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and San Gabriel oak (*Quercus durata* var. *gabrielensis*).

Special-status wildlife species observed in or within 500 feet of the Project Component include potential San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) middens, American white pelican (*Pelecanus*

erythrorhynchos), and merlin (*Falco columbarius*). The Project Component is located within 0.5 mile of a coast range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*) sighting. As of December 16, 2013, no active nests are located within or adjacent to the Project Component. Construction began in this area in February 2011. Biological preconstruction surveys (P30) were conducted in October 2010, January 2011, and April 2011. Special-status biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking, where applicable.

Jurisdictional drainage resources located within 500 feet of the Project Component include 7-2-S-2, 7-2-S-3, 7-2-S-4, 7-2-S-5, 7-2-S-6, 7-2-S-7, 7-2-S-8, and 7-2-S-9. These features will not be impacted by the Project Component; therefore, wetland permit amendments are not required.

Impacts associated with this Final Engineering Concurrence includes 0.58 acre of new permanent impacts. Temporary impacts will be mitigated on-site per the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and APM BIO-1a, as well as SWPPP requirements, weed control (Mitigation Measure [MM] B-3a), dust control (MM AQ-1a), and visual resources (MM V-1 and APM AES-8 and APM AES-13). Permanent impacts to special-status vegetation communities and special-status species habitat will be mitigated off-site per agreements with CDFW and USFWS, and Applicant Proposed Mitigation (APM) BIO-7.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated December 16, 2013 regarding the SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 7 T/L, Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – Grading and Contractor Work Limit Modifications at Structure M27-T2. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the new grading and contractor work limit modifications at Structure M27-T2 on Segment 7 T/L in support of the TRTP. The proposed grading and contractor work limit modifications at Structure M27-T2 provided in the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence were included in previous surveys for the TRTP and one cultural resource was identified (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010; PCR 2011). This previously recorded resource, Van Tassel Motorway (P-19-186917; Vance 2001) has been determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (Schmidt and Romani 2010).

Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the geology at the proposed location as quartz diorite and basalt dikes (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron and Kelly 2010). Based on the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, these sediments are considered low sensitivity for harboring 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.
- 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 Final Engineering Concurrence shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Coontz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Coontz
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen