

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 28, 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 (Segments 4-11), Modification #4 to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #17

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 24, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP) #17 seeking authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a shift in the location of Structure M32-T4 and associated additional work area on Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County, California.

The SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Project) was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by CPUC Decision 09-12-044, (Application #07-06-031), SCH #2007081156 on December 17, 2009. NTP #17 for the Segment 7 T/L was issued by CPUC on September 24, 2010. **This Modification #4 to NTP #17 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE is requesting a Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP #17 dated September 24, 2010) for a shift in the location of Structure M32-T4 and associated additional work area on Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the TRTP in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County. Structure M32-T4 is shifting 60 feet to the northeast, therefore, construction activities at this structure require an additional 0.23 acre addition to the northeastern edge of the current structure work area. The existing approved workspace does not provide practical and sufficient space for staging and operating equipment required to construct the northern portion of the shifted structure. The proposed work area addition is needed to complete schedule construction and wire stringing activities. Access to the additional workspace will be through the approved work site, via approved construction access roads. Minor ground disturbance (i.e., leveling for temporary crane pad), drive and crush, or vegetation removal will be needed to utilize the requested area. Impacts within the proposed additional work area will be temporary.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the variance request stating that the additional work area at M32-T4 (Project Component) is located within previously surveyed portions of the Segment 7 Transmission Line. The following surveys have been conducted in the area: bat habitat assessment (November 4, 2010), preconstruction burrowing owl survey (November 15, 2010, January 21, 2011), and biological preconstruction and sweeps (December 3, 2010, January 28, 2011). The Project Component is characterized as a ruderal grassland and developed area. Vegetation communities and biological resources located within 500 feet of the Project Component include additional developed land

and ruderal grassland, open water, Mulefat scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and coastal sage scrub (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*). As of February 24, 2012, no active bird nests have been located within 500 feet of the Project Component. A loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) species event and potential solitary bat roost occur within 500 feet of the Project Component. 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 November 2010 (i.e., wire removal). A jurisdictional resource is located adjacent to the Project Component but will not be impacted by the Project Component.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

**Cultural Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated February 22, 2012 with the variance request from Koral Ahmet, MA, RPA, Archaeologist, stating that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the additional work area at M32-T4, in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County as part of the variance request in support of the TRTP. The additional work area falls within the surveyed corridor for TRTP (Pacific Legacy 2007). In addition, the paleontological literature review (Gust and Scott 2009) shows the area around M32-T4 to lie in an area of low sensitivity. The previous cultural survey shows one historic transmission line (Antelope-Mesa 220kV) crossing the additional work area. This line was evaluated and determined ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR in 2010. As a result, there will not be any impacts to significant cultural resources and no exposure of sensitive paleontological resources at M32-T4.

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 NTP #17 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #17, and this Modification #4 to NTP #17 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Dorman  
on behalf of  
John Boccio  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen