

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

November 11, 2010

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Project Manager
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Segments 4-11), Notice to Proceed (NTP #19)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On October 29, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) seeking authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to utilize the proposed Avenue F Contractor Yard to serve as a daily operating location for construction field personnel associated with the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4, 5 and 10 transmission lines, located in the City of Lancaster, 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 # 19 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

The proposed Avenue F Contractor Yard was utilized on Segments 1-3 of the TRTP. The Avenue F Yard was called the Mechanic's Yard at that time.

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE submitted a NTPR seeking authorization from the CPUC to utilize the proposed Avenue F Contractor Yard located in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

Site Location and Conditions

The Avenue F Contractor Yard occupies approximately 0.5 acres of a larger residential parcel in the City of Lancaster. The Avenue F Contractor Yard is located southeast of the intersection of West Avenue F and 30th Street West. The yard is approximately 5 miles west of Highway 14 and 2.5 miles northeast of the Antelope Substation.

The Avenue F Contractor Yard is relatively flat, disturbed area that is sparsely vegetated. Access to the yard will be through the owner's unpaved driveway, which runs north-south for 350 feet to a parking area adjacent to a large metal storage building on a cement foundation with multiple bays for vehicle storage. The storage building is approximately 50 feet by 150 feet. The parking area is in front of the bay doors on the east side of the building and has been leveled and topped with compacted asphalt raising it several feet above grade. The rest of the property around the yard has been bladed and is nearly devoid of all vegetation. A chain-link fence surrounds the perimeter of the yard.

Project Components

The Avenue F Contractor Yard will serve as a daily operating location for construction field personnel associated with Segment 4, 5 and 10 transmission lines. Operating hours for the Avenue F Contractor Yard are planned from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. To comply with the City of Lancaster noise

ordinance, yard activities between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. will only take place within the metal storage building. SCE has established a TRTP toll-free information line (877-795-8787) and website (www.sce.com/tehachapi). The information line is the designated public notification contact for the TRTP.

Site Facilities/Activities

Project facilities that may be present or active at the Contractor Yard throughout the duration of the project include: contractor equipment and material storage areas; office trailers; tool storage trailers; shipping containers; trash containers; potential helicopter landing area; temporary sanitary facilities, which may include aboveground water and sanitary waste holding tanks; fueling areas; fire equipment and spill kit; vehicle parking area; steam cleaner with containment; welder; and lighting and security.

Project activities that may be present or active at the Contractor Yard throughout the duration of the project include: yard development, operation, and maintenance; contractor equipment and material receipt, storage, and shipping; vehicle parking; equipment repair and steam cleaning; welding and cutting/torch work within building; potential helicopter operations, potential helicopter fueling; and equipment and vehicle fueling.

Site Preparation

No site preparation activities are planned for the Contractor Yard. Clearing and removal of weeds and brush, soil compacting, and placement of road base material (e.g. gravel) for maintenance purposes may occur as needed. No underground major activities are planned at the Contractor Yard.

Aboveground Major Activities

A new access gate with stabilized ingress and egress and a spill containment berm for a 1,000 gallon fuel truck will be installed. Electrical power and communication services will be provided to the office trailer via a nearby distribution power line.

Other Activities

While helicopter use is not currently anticipated at the Contractor Yard, there is a potential that it may be performed in the future. In the event helicopter activity is needed, SCE will coordinate with the CPUC and provide supplemental information and appropriate survey reports.

Biological Resources: SCE submitted a report titled *SCE TRTP Component, Avenue F Contractor Yard Biological Review* prepared by ICF International, dated October 2010. The subject site is bare and composed of disturbed/developed habitat. Surrounding habitats within the biological survey area (BSA) include ruderal grassland and rabbitbrush scrub. No sensitive natural communities are supported within the subject site. No jurisdictional or potential jurisdictional features were identified within the Avenue F Yard and buffer. Previous surveys were also conducted in 2007 and 2008 in support of the Antelope Transmission Line Project, Mechanic's Yard (same site as the Avenue F Yard). A literature review and field survey specific to the Mechanic's Yard were also completed. In 2007, the Mechanic's Yard was surveyed for special-status species, including plants, sensitive reptiles and amphibians, small rodent burrow concentrations, burrowing owls and raptors, and American badger (Burns & McDonnell 2007). No special-status species were found during surveys, and no raptor nests were recorded in the general vicinity of the survey area. The 2010 Avenue F Yard survey was also negative for any special-status plant species, although a population of Mohave spineflower (*Chorizanthe spinosa*), a CNPS 4.2 listed species, was observed within the BSA. The subject site does not provide suitable habitat for any special-status wildlife species, with the exception of burrowing owl. The 2010 site visit included a Phase I habitat assessment for burrowing owl within the BSA. No burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign was detected within the subject site; however, potentially suitable habitat for burrowing owls does exist on site, and potential burrows were

identified within the southern buffer. The potentially suitable burrowing owl habitat consists of a rocky debris pile that was observed approximately 100 feet southeast of the subject site.

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- **Cultural Resources.** The proposed Avenue F Contractor Yard was utilized on Segments 1-3 of the TRTP. The Avenue F Yard was called the Mechanic's Yard at that time. Survey for cultural resources was completed by Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc. in 2007. The report entitled *SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Mechanic's Yard, Avenue F and 30th Street West, Lancaster Area, Los Angeles County, California* was approved by the CPUC. No cultural resources occur within the boundaries or buffer associated with the Avenue F Contractor Yard.

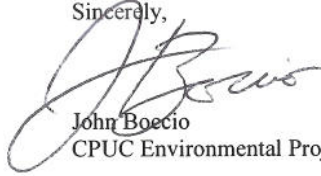
The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- All sensitive resource buffers shall be flagged prior to construction/site occupation. Resource flagging shall be field verified by the CPUC EM prior to site use.
- All construction areas and access roads identified in the NTPR submitted by SCE shall be flagged prior to construction. Flagging of construction areas and access roads shall be field verified by the CPUC EM prior to site use.
- Biological survey sweeps are required to occur immediately preceding and during project area set up and occupation as part of required biological monitoring activities. Sweeps for nesting birds shall include a 500 foot buffer. If active nests are found, a biological monitor shall establish a required buffer around the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails. The biological monitor shall conduct regular monitoring of the nest to determine success/failure and to ensure that project activities are not conducted within the buffer until the nesting cycle is complete or the nest fails. The biological monitor shall be responsible for documenting the results of the surveys and the ongoing monitoring. The buffer may be adjusted with the approval of CDFG and USFWS, and with prior knowledge of the CPUC. If special-status plant or animal species or bird nests are observed within the project area, CDFG and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately (within 24 hours). After complete sweeps have been submitted and approved by the CPUC EM, site occupation can occur; however, if occupation does not occur within seven calendar days of survey, biological clearance sweeps shall be re-conducted prior to site occupation, including nesting bird surveys during the breeding season.
- If helicopters will be using the Contractor Yard, prior to their use, a report shall be submitted to the CPUC regarding potential impacts to sensitive biological species, and the impacts of noise and dust on adjacent and nearby sensitive land uses.
- Prior to commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including haul truck and concrete truck drivers shall be appropriately trained on environmental issues including protocols for air quality, hazardous materials, biological resources, known and unanticipated cultural materials, as well as SWPPP BMP's. A log shall be maintained on site with the names of all crew personnel trained.
- If unanticipated biological, cultural or paleontological resources are detected, the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- The City of Lancaster approval or applicable Municipal Code reference shall be provided to CPUC for all future Sunday work or for work outside of the hours 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, prior to the commencement of work.
- Prior to fuel storage on the subject site, a Fuel Storage Plan shall be submitted to CPUC review and approval. The Plan shall specify method and location of fuel storage, volumes, demonstration of

compliance with regulatory requirements regarding fuel storage, and spill containment and response measures. All fueling of equipment shall be conducted in approved refueling locations only.

- Refueling and fueling locations shall be a minimum of 100-feet away from existing drainages. If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Notice to Proceed shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes to construction technique or mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a Variance Request shall be submitted for CPUC review and approval.

Sincerely,



John Boecio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen