

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 24, 2011

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: Modification to Notice to Proceed (NTP #21)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On June 10, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request (Modification to NTP #21) for the installation of telephone and IT services into the Vincent North Material Storage Yard, servicing Segments 6 and 11 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in Los Angeles County, California. **This Modification to NTP #21 is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE submitted a request for a Variance for the temporary installation of telephone and IT services into the Vincent North Material Yard. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #21 dated December 9, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and require the installation of these temporary facilities. Section *Site Facilities/Activities* of the Notice to Proceed for the Vincent North Yard identifies proposed activities at the Vincent North Yard that did not include the installation of telephone and other IT communication services. At the time the NTPR was prepared, the operational status of an existing AT&T service pedestal had not been determined: subsequently the pedestal had been determined to be operational. The pedestal is located outside the boundary of the Vincent North Yard. To reduce ground disturbance, directional drilling will be utilized to bring the communication data truck line(s) from the AT&T pedestal into the Vincent North Yard for further distribution to the office trailers requiring service.

From the existing AT&T communication pedestal on Carson Mesa Road, a directional bore will install a new HDPE 2" conduit 36" underground approximately 100 ft to the north-east. The conduit will terminate by rising on a temporary pole 13' tall that will support a 24" x 16" x 8" plastic AT&T demarcation box.

From the demarcation box, a 1" PVC conduit will be installed 18" underground by trenching between the fence line and the trailer offices due north of the temporary pole approximately 200'. An 8" x 8" plastic pull box will provide a "T" intersection of the PVC conduit to provide individual conduit runs to each of the four trailer offices.

The directional boring requires a 15' x 15' area of temporary disturbance for the start and end of the directional boring location. The boring activity will also require a 3' x 3' deep pit to start and end the boring installation. The 1" PVC installation will require approximately 2' (1' on each side of the 1" trench) for the length of trench that will be installed, approximately 200' plus 4' runs to each trailer.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological report by ICF International dated May 18, 2011, regarding the proposed installation of IT services at the Vincent North Yard. The report documents the biological conditions and resources at the proposed IT service installation areas (Variance Project



Component) and a 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]). A biological review for the Vincent North Yard was conducted in November 2010 (ICF 2010cl), and included the BSA. Previous surveys for vegetation, special-status plants, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), included the BSA. Construction activities and biological monitoring associated with both Segments 5 and 6 are ongoing in the vicinity of the Variance Project Component. Several active and inactive bird nests have been observed within the BSA during clearance sweeps or daily monitoring sweeps. Active nests within the BSA or within buffers that overlap the BSA include house finches and Western Kingbird. Regular biological sweeps are conducted at Vincent North Yard and the 500-foot buffer to detect new biological resources in compliance with APM Bio-1. These sweeps began in January 2011, at the start of the Vincent North Yard development.

The area of disturbance required for the installation of two poles and an underground line is primarily within disturbed/developed area, but encroaches slightly into disturbed Mojavean juniper woodland scrub. Mojavean juniper woodland scrub (disturbed and natural), rabbitbrush scrub, and disturbed developed are present within the BSA. No potential habitat features that could be used by foliage roosting, solitary lasiurine species, such as western yellow bat and western red bat were identified within the Variance Project Component or BSA (ICF 2010fl). No wildlife species or nests were observed within the Variance Project Component (ICF 2010cl; 2010fl; 2010fn; 2011n; 2011bi; 2011bj). No burrowing owl burrows or burrowing owls were identified within the BSA. No special-status plant species are present within the Project Component or BSA (AMEC 2009c; ICF 2010ag). No jurisdictional features are present within the Project Component or BSA (ICF 2010l).

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance.

**Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated June 10, 2011, with the Variance Request stating that no cultural resources will be impacted by the requested ground disturbing activities associated with the installation of telephone and IT services at the Vincent North Yard as part of the Variance Request. The area identified in the Variance Request has been the subject of several assessments regarding cultural resources, including three cultural resource survey reports (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2008, 2010b) and one cultural resource survey and evaluation report (Pacific Legacy 2010a). One cultural resource, CA-LAN-3536H, a historic trash scatter, was previously recorded within the area identified in the variance. The affected portion of the site was evaluated and determined ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources (Pacific Legacy 2010a). During the course of development of the Vincent North Yard, the portion of CA-LAN-3536H that once existed within the yard boundary (and within the disturbance area of this variance) was completely removed. All ground disturbance was monitored by a qualified archaeologist. No subsurface cultural features or significant cultural deposits were exposed during the course of development. No further cultural resource assessment is necessary to support the activities identified in this variance. The Paleontological Resources Management Plan Segments 4 through 11 of the TRTP are was prepared by Cogstone Resource Management, Inc. (Gust and Scott 2009). The surface sediments at this location (Quaternary Alluvium) are considered low sensitivity for paleontological resources. Therefore, monitoring by a qualified paleontologist is not required during the proposed ground disturbing activities.

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

- All conditions required by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #21 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #21, and this Modification to NTP #21 shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JBoccio".

John Boccio  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen