

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

January 12, 2011

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, GO1
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Segments 4-11), Notice to Proceed (NTP #25)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On November 19, 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 Fullerton Contractor Yard, Tonner Canyon Contractor Show-up Yard, and Tonner Canyon Contractor Equipment Yard for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). Use of the Fullerton Contractor Yard located in unincorporated Los Angeles County near the City of La Habra Heights is approved under this NTP; however, the Tonner Canyon Contractor Equipment Yard located in Los Angeles County and the Tonner Canyon Contractor Show-up Yard located in Orange County are not authorized under NTP #25. At such time SCE conducts appropriate surveys as required by USFWS and CDFG and the results are submitted for agency review and approval, a separate NTP will be issued for the use of the yards by CPUC.

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 #25 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information for the Fullerton Contractor Yard:

SCE is requesting a Notice to Proceed for the use of the proposed Fullerton Contractor Yard in support of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. The Fullerton Contractor yard is located in Los Angeles County, California.

Site Location and Conditions***Fullerton Contractor Yard***

The Fullerton Contractor Yard consists of approximately 0.71 acres of SCE-leased property in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California, near the City of La Habra Heights. The Fullerton Contractor Yard is located on the north side of Pathfinder Road, northeast of the intersection of Pathfinder Road and Fullerton Road. The Fullerton Contractor Yard slopes gently downhill to the northwestern portion of the yard. One new access gate will be installed on the southwestern side of the yard.

Project Components

The Contractor Yard will serve as the daily operating location for construction field personnel associated with the Segment 8 transmission line. Operating hours for the Contractor Yard are planned to be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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

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; roll-off trash containers; temporary sanitary facilities, which may include aboveground water and sanitary waste holding tanks; fueling areas; fire equipment and spill kit; vehicle parking area; equipment steam cleaner with containment; welder; and lighting/security.

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; equipment and vehicle fueling; repair, welding assembly, and cutting of various transmission line components; and provide electrical power and communication services to office trailers.

Site Work

Site Preparation

Site preparation activities at the Fullerton Yard will include clearing and removal of weeds and brush, soil compacting as needed, and placement of road base material where required (2 to 3 inches of rock, as needed).

Underground Major Activities

No underground major activities are planned at the Contractor Yards.

Aboveground Major Activities

The vehicle parking, equipment storage, and show-up areas will be properly constructed (bermed, lined, and rocked) to contain potential leaks and/or spills from vehicles and equipment. Additional work at the Fullerton Contractor Yard includes the following: installing one access gate at the southwestern corner of the yard; installation of approximately 800 linear feet of new 6-foot-high screened chain link fence; and installation of a stabilized entrance along the Pathfinder Road entrance.

- **Biological Resources.** SCE submitted a Biological Review, prepared by ICF International dated November 2010 for the Fullerton Contractor Yard. The Contractor Yard site is located directly adjacent to an existing church and school and is dominated by ruderal grassland. The 500 foot buffer zone is composed of ruderal grassland, nonnative woodland, disturbed/developed areas, and coast live oak woodland. Previous focused surveys have been completed in areas of the Project Component (Contractor Yard) and a 500-foot buffer zone (biological survey area [BSA]). Prior focused surveys conducted for rare plants (AMEC 2007a, 2009o; ICF 2010m) indicated the presence of California walnut (*Juglans californica*) in the BSA. In 2010, four California walnut and four canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) were recorded within the buffer area, but outside the Project Component (ICF 2010m, 2010t). California walnut is considered a special-status species as it is included in the California Native Plant Society List 4.2. Canyon live oak is also covered by the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance.

Suitable habitat is present for burrowing owl (Phase 1 survey); however, burrow surveys (Phase 2) were negative and burrowing owl was not found on site (ICF 2010o). A burrowing owl focused preconstruction survey will be completed. Potential bat roost trees are present and a focused preconstruction bat roost habitat will be completed. No suitable habitat for any other special-status wildlife species was identified during the field survey completed specific for this biological review, or during the habitat assessments completed prior to the initiation of the species specific focused surveys. Critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (USFWS 2010) is present within the 500-foot survey area west of Fullerton Road; however, the BSA, including the Project Component, does

not support coastal sage scrub vegetation suitable for California gnatcatcher. Therefore, no focused surveys for this species were conducted within the BSA. No jurisdictional features occur within the Project Component.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources.** The Fullerton Yard is located within the TRTP corridor and has been previously addressed by a cultural survey (Pacific Legacy 2007), with the exception of a small area of the yard that is comprised of a previously constructed parking lot. No potential impacts to cultural resources are expected to occur within the boundaries or buffer associated with the proposed yard.

Spot-check monitoring for paleontological resources is necessary at Fullerton Yard if trenching or grading excavation extends below surface into native soils.

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

- Use of the Tonner Canyon Contractor Equipment Yard and Tonner Canyon Contractor Show-up Yard are not authorized under NTP #25. At such time SCE conducts appropriate surveys as required by USFWS and CDFG and the results are submitted for agency review and approval, a separate NTP will be issued for the use of the yards by CPUC.
- All applicable project mitigation measures, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- At least 14 days prior to the start of any construction-related activities, SCE shall provide notification to potentially affected property owners, and copies of the notification and distribution list shall be provided to the CPUC at the time of noticing (Mitigation Measures L-1a and L-1b). In addition, SCE shall provide all affected property owners with quarterly updates on any changes to the information provided in the pre-construction notification (Mitigation Measure L-1c).
- Per Mitigation Measure (MM) N-1a, a temporary sound wall or acoustic blanket shall be installed on the north side of the Yard to shield adjacent sensitive receptors (church/school) prior to site occupation and use. The sound wall or acoustic blanket shall have a height of no less than 8 feet, a Sound Transmission Class (STC) of 27 or greater, and a surface with a solid face from top to bottom without any openings or cutouts.
- All sensitive resource buffers shall be flagged prior to site occupation/construction. Resource flagging shall be field verified by the CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) prior to project area 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. For *listed riparian species*, no work will be authorized within 500 feet of an active nest and all activities will stop immediately within 500 feet of the nest (Mitigation Measure B-15). 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.

- Per MM B-29, Implement CDFG Protocol for Burrowing Owls, SCE shall conduct protocol pre-construction surveys in potential burrowing owl habitat.
- 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.
- Prior to fuel storage on the subject sites, 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 or water features. If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- Spot-check monitoring for paleontological resources shall be conducted at the Fullerton Yard if trenching or grading excavation extends below surface into native soils.
- If unanticipated biological, cultural or paleontological resources are detected, the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- Los Angeles County 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.
- 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 Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen