

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 13, 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: Notice to Proceed (NTP #29)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On May 6, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) for use of the San Gabriel Contractor Yard in support of Segment 11 Transmission Line (T/L) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Rosemead, Los Angeles County, California. **This NTP #29 is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Notice to Proceed (NTP) for use of the San Gabriel Contractor Yard (Contractor Yard) in support of Segment 11 T/L for the TRTP, in the City of Rosemead, Los Angeles County, California. The Contractor Yard consists of approximately 3.4 acres located along North San Gabriel Boulevard, southeast of the intersection of North San Gabriel Boulevard and Garvalia Avenue. The Contractor Yard is a relatively flat, disturbed area, and is generally void of vegetation. One existing gate is located along North San Gabriel Boulevard at the southwest corner of the yard. The property is owned by SCE.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Contractor Yard will serve as one of the daily operating locations for transmission line construction crews associated with TRTP Segment 11. 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; security trailer; tool storage trailers; shipping containers; roll-off trash container; temporary sanitary facilities, which may include aboveground water and sanitary waste holding tanks; fueling areas; fire equipment and spill kit; vehicle parking area; roll-off steel disposal container; 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; security activities; contractor equipment and material receipt, storage, and shipping; vehicle parking; equipment repair; welding and torch work; installation of temporary power; tower lay-down and disassembly; equipment and vehicle fueling; and access gate and sidewalk modifications.

Site Work

Site Preparation – Site preparation activities at the yard will include clearing and removal of weeds and brush and soil compacting. The existing access gate will be widened, along with the sidewalk and curb cut (per City permit), and the entrance will be stabilized (e.g., roadbase). Vegetation will be cleared from the existing fence.

Underground Major Activities – No underground major activities are planned at the San Gabriel Contractor Yard.

Aboveground Major Activities – Electrical power and communication services will be provided to the yard via a nearby distribution power line. Existing fence and fence posts at the yard will be repaired, and privacy fence screening will be installed as needed.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological review with the Notice to Proceed Request by ICF International dated May 2011, titled *SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Component – San Gabriel Contractor Yard Biological Review*. The report summarizes results of literature review and prior surveys conducted for the TRTP, as well as a literature review and field surveys conducted on Segments 6 and 11, which include the San Gabriel Contractor Yard (Project Component). Previous focused surveys completed in the vicinity of the Project Component and the associated 500-foot buffer (biological survey area [BSA]) in support of Segment 11 include surveys for vegetation (ICF 2010nn), rare plants (AMEC 2007a; ICF 2010au), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (AMEC 2009a; ICF 2010dk). The Project Component does not contain rare plants, and is not within suitable habitat for burrowing owl.

The field review determined that the Project Component consists of disturbed/developed land and ruderal grassland, with a small area of non-native woodland along the west and north perimeters. The 500-foot buffer portion of the BSA is comprised of disturbed/developed land, with a sparsely vegetated channel containing some disturbed vegetation to the east of the Project Component. No state-protected or regulated vegetation communities occur within the Project Component (ICF 2010nn, 2010au).

One potential colonial bat roost, located at the western edge of the BSA, will be avoided. The Project Component provides potential nesting habitat for bird species that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code. Disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland areas also provide raptor foraging habitat. Preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to any project-related activities to ensure impacts do not occur to nesting birds during the breeding season or on any potentially occurring special-status species.

No hydrological jurisdictional features are located within the Project Component. One jurisdictional feature (11-89-S-1, Alhambra Wash) is located within the BSA, and will not be impacted by the Project Component (ICF 2010aj).

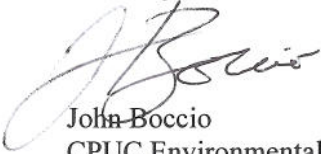
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted cultural and paleontological information with the NTPR for San Gabriel Contractor Yard. In the NTPR, SCE states that the San Gabriel Contractor Yard is located entirely within the previously surveyed right-of-way for TRTP (Pacific Legacy 2007 and 2010). No cultural resources have been previously recorded within the proposed yard boundaries, or within the vicinity of the proposed yard boundaries. No additional cultural resources assessment is necessary for the development of this area as a material yard. Per the final Paleontological Resource Management Plan that was approved on August 22, 2010, paleontological monitoring is necessary only during ground disturbance in native soils in areas of medium to high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Soils at the Contractor Yard are comprised of Qa (Quaternary Alluvium), which is classified as a low level of sensitivity for harboring paleontological resources. No monitoring is required during the course of development activities at the Contractor Yard.

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

- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If unanticipated biological, cultural or paleontological resources are detected, the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- Per Mitigation Measure L-1a, SCE shall provide summary documentation to the CPUC of all complaints, comments, and concerns communicated to the liaison every two months for the duration of construction and for one year following the completion of construction.

- 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