STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

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

May 20, 2015

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: Final Engineering Concurrence to NTP #41

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On May 8, 2015, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for equipment upgrades at the Mira Loma Substation for Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) Chino Hills (Phase 1) Underground of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. **This Concurrence to Final Engineering is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

  SCE requests a Concurrence of Final Engineering for equipment upgrades at the Mira Loma Substation for Segment 8 T/L Chino Hills (Phase 1) Underground of the TRTP, in the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #41 dated September 19, 2014) by the CPUC, additional engineering design was conducted for Segment 8 T/L Chino Hills (Phase I) Underground, which identified the need for equipment upgrades at Mira Loma Substation. The upgrades are situated within the Mira Loma Substation. The Mira Loma Substation upgrades are described below.

  - Major underground activities include:

    - Installation of foundations for new 500 kV dead-end structures
    - Installation of foundations for new 500 kV shunt reactor operating bus and associated structures
    - Installation of foundations for 500 kV shunt reactors
    - Installation of foundations for 500 kV surge arrestors
    - Installation of foundations for 500 kV disconnect switches
    - Installation of foundations for 500 kV circuit breakers
    - Installation of foundations for firewalls
    - Excavation for grounding and conduit installations
    - Modifications to the existing ground grid system
    - Installation of power and current cables for the 500 kV reactors
    - Installation of control cable trench system
    - Excavation for a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) facility
    - Removal of existing 500 kV tower foundation

  - Major aboveground activities include:

    - Installation of 500 kV dead-end structures
    - Installation of a 500 kV A-frame shunt reactor operating bus structures

- Installation of 500 kV shunt reactors
- Installation of 500 kV surge arrestors
- Installation of 500 kV disconnect switches
- Installation of 500 kV circuit breakers
- Installation of Operator Interface cabinets
- Installation of 500 kV buses, support structures, and overhead conductors
- Installation of 500 kV insulators
- Installation of firewalls
- Installation of a neutral bus structure
- Installation of SPCC facilities
- Modification and/or additions to the station lighting system
- Modification and/or additions to the existing driveway within the substation
- Modifications and/or additions to existing automation, protection, and metering equipment within the existing Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER)
- Removal of wave traps and line tuners
- Removal of protective relays and communication equipment within the existing MEER

In general, the disturbed areas will be covered with an approximately 4-inch layer of untreated, ¾-inch nominal crushed rock.

Within the MEER, the telecommunications equipment supporting the protective relays will be modified to allow for three diverse telecommunication paths.

- **Biological Resources**: SCE submitted a biological report with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence dated May 1, 2015 from ICF International. The report documents the biological conditions for the proposed Segment 8 500kV Underground Mira Loma Substation upgrades (Variance Project Component) and an associated 500-foot buffer. The Variance Project Component plus the 500-foot buffer are referred to as the Biological Study Zone (BSA). Biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during several focused surveys, including 2009, 2010, and 2011 special-status plant surveys (AMEC 2009o; ICF 2010at, 2011hc); 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011hd); and 2009 and 2010 burrowing owl surveys (AMEC 2009j; ICF 2010xx). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during Segment 8 East (Phase 3) general preconstruction surveys, burrowing owl preconstruction surveys, and preconstruction bat habitat assessment surveys (ICF 2010fd, 2010fe, 2010gn, 2011z, 2011bf, 2011ib; FRED Survey Parent 000017, 000026). A literature review was also performed as part of the biological review for Segment 8 East (ICF 2010aw). Clearance sweeps were performed prior to the start of construction. A clearance sweep will also be conducted prior to construction of the Variance Project Component. Construction monitoring has been ongoing regularly since the sites became active, and species events and nest events are recorded in the SCE Field Reporting Environmental Database (FRED) (SCE 2014a).

  The Variance Project Component is disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include agriculture, California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and ruderal grassland. No special-status plant species or regulated tree species have been observed within the BSA. Wildlife species observed within the BSA include peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Potential burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) burrows and inactive nests have been observed within the 500-foot buffer. American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) nests have been observed within the BSA.

  Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluating during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). Jurisdictional feature 8-69-S-1 occurs within the 500-foot buffer.

  No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources**: SCE submitted a memorandum titled SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for 500 kV Underground Equipment Upgrades at Mira Loma Substation dated April 20, 2015. The report states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed equipment upgrades at the SCE Mira Loma Substation on the TRTP 500 kV Underground. The Mira Loma Substation was included in the previous survey for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified within the substation (Pacific Legacy 2007).

  Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the geology at the proposed Mira Loma Substation as Quaternary alluvium (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). Based on the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, the Quaternary alluvium is considered to have low sensitivity for harboring significant paleontological resources (PFYC = 2). Therefore, no paleontological monitoring is recommended for this RFEC.

  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 the Chino Hills Underground Notice to Proceed (NTP) #41 shall apply to the subject area and activities.

- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #41, and this Concurrence of Final Engineering shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen