

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 1, 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 20, 2015, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for new underground telecom duct bank for Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) Chino Hills (Phase 1) Underground of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Chino Hills, 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 new underground telecom duct bank for Segment 8 T/L Chino Hills (Phase 1) Underground of the TRTP, in the City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to approval of NTPR (NTP #41 dated September 19, 2014) by the CPUC, it was determined that two new underground duct banks were inadvertently described as existing duct banks. The purpose of this Request for Final Engineering Concurrence is to provide a revised description of the work as follows:

- New Underground Duct Bank near Vault Cluster 9. Approximately 203 feet new underground duct bank will be installed from Vault Cluster 9 to pole 4331597E.
- New Underground Duct Bank near the intersection of Galloping Hills Road and Eucalyptus Avenue. Approximately 60 feet of new underground duct bank will be installed from pole 4105726E to vault V5392176.

Also, map revisions have been made to reflect the correct location of existing poles 4331597E and 4105726E and the corresponding anchors and work areas.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological report with the Request for Final Engineering Concurrence dated May 13, 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; FRED); 2010 and 2011 tree inventory surveys (ICF 2010av, 2011hd); and 2010 burrowing owl surveys (ICF 2010xx). The biological resources within the BSA were also evaluated during Segment 8 Chino Hills (Phase 1) general preconstruction surveys (ICF 2010cd, 2010ce, 2010ez, 2010fq, 2011cd, 2011gy, 2011gz; FRED). 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).

Site 1: New Underground Duct Bank near Vault Cluster 9

The Variance Project Component and the 500-foot buffer are disturbed/developed. No special-status plant species occur within the BSA. Regulated tree species, California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), occurs within the Variance Project Component. Regulated tree species, Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), occurs within the 500-foot buffer. Wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer include Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) midden occur within the 500-foot buffer.

Site 2: New Underground Duct Bank near the Intersection of Galloping Hills Road and Eucalyptus Avenue

Vegetation communities within the Variance Project Component and the 500-foot buffer are disturbed/developed and non-native woodland. No special-status plant species or regulated tree species occur within the BSA. Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) have been observed within the 500-foot buffer.

Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluating during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). No jurisdictional features occur within the BSA.

The Variance Project Component does not overlap suitable habitat for special-status species as included in the CDFW Incidental Take Permit (ITP) or the USFWS Biological Opinion (BO). Impacts associated with this Final Engineering Concurrence includes: approximately 0.084 acres of additional temporary impacts. Temporary impacts will be mitigated on-site per the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and APM BIO-1a, as well as SWPPP requirements, weed control (Mitigation Measure [MM] B-3a), dust control (MM AQ-1a), and visual resources (MM V-1 and APM AES-8 and APM AES-13).

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 Segment 8 Phase 1 500 kV Underground Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – New Telecom Underground Duct Bank dated April 30, 2015. The proposed duct bank area near Vault Cluster 9 has been included in previous surveys for cultural resources in support of the TRTP and one cultural resource was identified (Pacific Legacy 2007; 2010a-b). The historic resource consists of the Chino-Mesa 220kV transmission line which was evaluated and determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Office of Historic Preservation 2010). The line and foundations have since been removed. The proposed duct bank near the intersection of Galloping Hills Road and Eucalyptus Avenue lies outside of the previously surveyed TRTP area, but within the records search study area and no cultural resources were identified along the existing Eucalyptus Avenue. In addition, this area has been previously disturbed and it is currently paved. Therefore, the potential for resources to be found during ground disturbing activities is low.

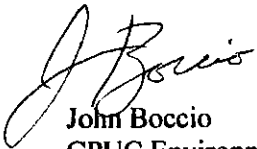
Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the geology at the two proposed locations as the Puente Formation (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). Based on the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, the Puente Formation is considered high sensitivity for harboring significant paleontological resources (PFYC = 5). Therefore, in accordance with the Paleontological Resource Management Plan (Gust and Scott 2009), paleontological resources monitoring is required during any ground disturbing activities associated with the new telecom underground duct bank work within native soils.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- Per the Paleontological Resource Management Plan, paleontological resources monitoring is required during any ground disturbing activities associated with the new telecom underground duct bank work within native soils.
- 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