

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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July 28, 2016

Ryan Stevenson
Principal Advisor
Regulatory Policy & Affairs
Southern California Edison
8631 Rush Street, General Office 4 - G100 (Ground Floor)
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Final Engineering Concurrence to NTP #42

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On April 14, 2016, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a Request for Final Engineering Concurrence (RFEC) for the installation of a barrier screen at the Eastern Transition Station for the 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. Additional information was submitted May 20 and June 23, 2016.

As part of the review of the RFEC, CPUC required SCE to post a notification for 30 days regarding the barrier screen on the ETS perimeter wall along Pipeline Avenue in such a fashion that the public could view the notification while driving by. The notification included a simulation of the proposed barrier screen, reason for its need, and contact information for SCE and CPUC with directions on who to submit comments to. A draft of the notification, including proposed size and posting locations were provided to CPUC for approval prior to posting. In addition, SCE provided written notification to all property owners within 300 feet of the ETS. The notification was posted June 23, 2016. No public comments were received.

This Final Engineering Concurrence is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Concurrence of Final Engineering for the installation of a barrier screen at the East Transition Station (ETS) 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 #42 dated February 10, 2015) by the CPUC, additional engineering design was conducted at the East Transition Station. The engineering changes are described below.

The facilities for both the ETS and the West Transition Station (WTS) include oil filled 500 kV underground cable to overhead conductor terminations. There is no existing operating experience with these specific terminations within the USA. During the design phase of the project, SCE considered a worst case failure scenario for the termination failure. SCE concluded that the two failure mitigation measures would minimize the possibility of ejecting oil and debris outside of the ETS property boundaries. The first measure was to change the insulation material from porcelain to a polymer material for both the ETS and the WTS. The second measure was to install barrier screens on the north and west side of the ETS where there would likely be public presence. Since the WTS does not have any likely public presence, no screens were needed.

The barrier screen is situated within the ETS. The approximately 329-foot-long barrier screen will be installed on the north and west sides of the transition station at the end of the cable trench. The barrier

screen will be a total of approximately 23 feet in height, extending from approximately 10 feet above grade to approximately 33 feet above grade. The barrier screen will be made of corrugated, dulled, galvanized steel panels supported by horizontal steel beams and steel columns.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the RFEC. The ETS was previously surveyed for biological resources (reports were previously submitted as part of the Notice to Proceed Request for the 500 kV Underground Transition Stations). The ETS is built out and the barrier screen would be completely within the developed ETS site. Resources are being updated and are present in Field Resources Environmental Database (FRED) through regular monitoring and nesting bird surveys.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum titled *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment/Guidelines for 500 kV Underground Transition Stations - Request for Final Engineering Concurrence – East Transition Station Barrier Screen* dated March 22, 2016. The memorandum states it is anticipated that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed RFEC. The proposed areas identified within the RFEC have been included in previous surveys for cultural resources in support of the TRTP and one cultural resource was identified within the ETS. The resource consists of a building located at 14575 Pipeline Avenue. The building was evaluated and determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Tinsley Becker 2013; Office of Historic Preservation 2014).

Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP indicate that the geology of the area is characterized by Quaternary alluvium (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). Based on the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, the Quaternary alluvium (Qa) is considered to have a low sensitivity for harboring significant paleontological resources (PFYC = 2). The proposed work will require excavation within fill and the Qa, which may overlay a geologic unit with a higher sensitivity for containing paleontological resources (Puente Formation). Monitoring activities conducted to date have not revealed Puente Formation during excavations at the ETS. Due to the nature of the work drilling for foundations within Qa, a paleontological monitor is only recommended a spot check basis during the first drilling activities in native sediment to confirm that the Puente Formation is not reached.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

- **Public Safety:** Under the subject RFEC, SCE is proposing the installation of barrier screens along the north and west sides of the ETS to minimize the possibility of ejecting oil and debris reaching outside of the ETS property boundaries in the event of a termination failure. Directly to the north of the ETS is the Montessori School and directly to the west is Pipeline Avenue. Public safety at both locations could be affected under a termination failure without the proposed barrier screens. State Route 71 and commercial land uses are located to the east and south, respectively. However, these land uses are set back from the ETS by the freeway easement to the west (approximately 75 feet wide) and flood control channel to the south (approximately 30 feet wide). The proposed barrier screens would minimize public safety impacts related to an ETS catastrophic failure.

The Western Transition Station is surrounded by open space with limited public access; therefore, barrier screens are not proposed to minimize public safety impacts at this location.

- **Aesthetics:** As proposed, the barrier screens would be comprised of corrugated, dulled, galvanized steel panels with an approximate horizontal height of 23 feet. Given that the panels would be solid in nature and at the proposed height, possible visual impacts could occur. However, the barrier screens would prevent visual access to ETS equipment which would still protrude over the screens. In addition, given that the screens are setback from the property lines their presence would be diminished; along the northern property

line, the barrier screen would be approximately 80 ft. inboard from the exterior wall and along the western property line, the barrier screen would be approximately 50-70 ft. inboard from the exterior wall. Finally, given that the screens would be made of dulled, galvanized steel, no glare should occur. No significant visual impacts are anticipated.

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

- All conditions required by the Chino Hills Underground Transition Stations Notice to Proceed (NTP) #42 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- As proposed, a paleontological monitor shall spot check during the first drilling activities in native sediment to confirm that the Puente Formation is not reached.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #42, 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