

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

October 15, 2010

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Project Manager
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Variance Request (VR) #12

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On October 6, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting revisions to the wire setup site locations for purposes of constructability on the Segment 8 transmission line (T/L), Phase I, for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

Subsequent to the approvals of NTP #11, dated August 12, 2010, and Variance #7, dated September 16, 2010, by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and several wire setup site locations have been proposed for purposes of constructability.

The wire setup sites proposed in this Variance will be used for wire stringing and removal. The dimensions for each wire setup site are variable, with the largest being approximately 500 feet x 200 feet. These wire setup sites may require vegetation grubbing or clearing, depending upon the conditions of each location. No grading will occur at these sites. Specifically, wire setup sites proposed in this Variance are listed below:

- Wire setup site between Tower M56-T4 and Tonner Canyon Road
 - Wire setup site between Esquillime Drive and Canyon Hills Road
 - Wire setup site between Tower M60-T2 and Tower M60-T3
 - Wire setup sites adjacent to both east and west of Tower M62-T1
 - Wire setup sites adjacent to both east and west of Tower M64-T1
 - Wire setup sites adjacent to and west of Tower M64-T3
 - Wire setup site south of Tower M65-T2
 - Wire setup site north of Tower M65-T3
- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for the Wilson Proposed Wire Setup Sites Variance for Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segment 8 Transmission Line Chino Hills (Phase I), Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, California* dated October 1, 2010 by ICF International. The Biological Survey Report analyzes the biological resources within additional project elements that were added since the original Biological Review for Segment 8 Chino Hills (Phase I). The biological resources within the variance and a variable impact buffer (10 to 500 feet) were evaluated during focused and preconstruction biological surveys. Surveys were performed by qualified ICF International biologists walking the entire site in meandering transects to ensure 100% visual coverage. Vegetation communities observed include: California annual grassland, California walnut woodland, coast live oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, ruderal grassland, and water. Burrowing owl surveys, bat habitat assessments, and woodrat nest surveys were conducted along with general biological surveys.

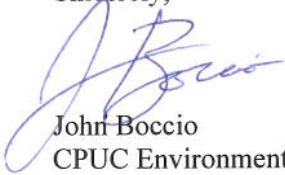
The 2010 focused rare plant survey (ICF 2010m) included all wire setup sites. Special-status plants (California walnut) were recorded at the wire setup site between Tower M56-T4 and Tonner Canyon Road. Special-status biological resources, such as woodrat nests, potential bat roosts, and special-status plants, have been staked and flagged to ensure minimization and/or avoidance. All drainages in the vicinity of wire setup sites, including previously delineated areas and any areas determined to be potentially jurisdictional during the preconstruction surveys, will be staked during preconstruction surveys and avoided during construction. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

Cultural Resources: All proposed wire setup sites are situated within the previously surveyed TRTP right-of-way (ROW) corridor, and no cultural resources were identified. No additional impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

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

- All conditions required by NTP #11 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #11, and this Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen