

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

December 1, 2010

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, GO1
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Variance Request (VR) #19

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On November 22, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting to relocate a wire setup site disturbance area near Construct 60 for purposes of constructability on Segment 5, 500 kV transmission line of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). A clarification to this variance request was submitted on November 30. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

Subsequent to approval of the NTPR (NTP #15 dated August 16, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and a wire setup site disturbance area near Construct 60 will need to be relocated for purposes of constructability. The relocation of the wire setup site (WSS) proposed in this Variance will be used for construction of the Segment 5, 500 kV transmission line.

The current position of the approved WSS is located too far outside of the right-of-way (ROW) to perform the necessary construction activities related to the 500 kV installation. The proposed relocation of the WSS will allow the Contractor to correctly position the pulling equipment in order to install conductor between Constructs 60 and 61.

The approved WSS is currently located between Construct 59 and Construct 60. The new location will be approximately 600 feet northwest of Construct 60 within the Segment 5 ROW, and approximately 300 feet west of its current position. The site dimensions will change from 200 feet by 200 feet to measure approximately 200 feet by 300 feet.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for the Proposed Construct 60 Wire Setup Site Variance for Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segment 5 Transmission Line, Los Angeles County, California* dated November 19, 2010 by ICF International. Biological resources within the biological survey area (BSA = Project Component and 500-foot buffer zone) were evaluated during surveys within and adjacent to the BSA, including focused species surveys and preconstruction biological surveys. A literature review was also performed as part of the biological review. Preconstruction surveys that included the BSA were completed on September 9, 2010 (ICF 2010ai). An updated preconstruction survey for this variance was conducted on November 10, 2010.

Vegetation communities observed within the BSA include disturbed/developed, Mojavean juniper woodland scrub and Mojave mixed woody scrub. Vegetation communities observed within the subject variance area include disturbed/developed Mojavean juniper woodland scrub. No special-status plants were observed within the BSA during the focused surveys or the preconstruction surveys. No special status wildlife species were observed within the BSA. One potential burrowing

owl burrow feature was identified outside of the subject WSS, but within the BSA buffer (ICF 2010ac). During the general preconstruction survey (ICF 2010ai), the burrow was determined to be no longer suitable for burrowing owl. Four previously mapped jurisdictional features (5-34-S1, 5-34-S2, 5-35-S1, and 5-35-S-2) occur outside of the subject WSS, but within the BSA buffer (ICF 2010l). These will be staked and flagged as environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) for avoidance. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum titled *Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Variance – Seg 5-1 CT-60 WSS, Cultural Clearance for a Wire Stringing Site between Towers 59-60*. SCE states that no cultural resources will be affected by the proposed WSS relocation on Segment 5. A record search and both cultural and paleontological surveys of the proposed work area have been conducted for this portion of the TRTP on Segment 5. No cultural resources were identified in the subject WSS relocation area. Work will not occur outside of previously surveyed areas. Because there is a possibility that paleontological resources exist in this area, paleontological monitoring is recommended if ground disturbing activities occur. No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- Due to the possibility that paleontological resources exist in this area, paleontological monitoring shall occur during ground disturbing activities.
- All conditions required by NTP #15 shall apply to the subject site and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #15, 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