

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

December 2, 2010

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: Variance Request (VR) #20

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On November 30, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting to revise the alignment of a portion of an approved access road to provide safer access in Tonner Canyon, Segment 8, Phase I, 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 approval of NTPR (NTP #11 dated August 12, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and an additional access road segment has been identified as a safer alternative. Specifically, the Contractor has identified an additional access road segment that will allow them to more safely bypass a steep part of the approved access road between Tower's M57-T3 and M58-T1. This is an existing road that will not require improvements. This access road segment is currently being used under a Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) approval.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for the Proposed Tonner Canyon Access Road Variance for TRTP, Segment 8 Chino Hills (Phase I) Transmission Line, Los Angeles County, California* dated November 30, 2010 by ICF International. Biological resources within the biological survey area (BSA = Variance 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.

Vegetation communities within the BSA include coast live oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, California annual grassland, California walnut woodland, bunchgrass grassland, and disturbed/developed habitat. The subject access road traverses only disturbed/developed habitat. Except for California walnut, no other special-status plants were observed in the BSA during the previous focused and preconstruction surveys (ICF 2010at, 2010as, 2010ce). No previously mapped jurisdictional feature occurs within the BSA (ICF 2010h). No potential burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) burrow features or burrowing owls were identified within the BSA during focused and preconstruction surveys (ICF 2010xx, 2010II). No special-status wildlife species have been recorded within the BSA. Potential bat roosts occur within the BSA where coast live oak woodland and California walnut woodland occur. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

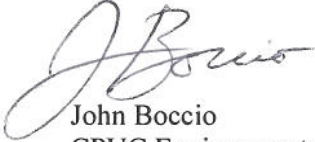
Cultural and Paleontological Resources: SCE submitted an email from Matthew Wetherbee, SCE Contingent Archaeologist, dated November 17, 2010 stating that no cultural resources will be affected by the use of the existing access road in Tonner Canyon south of Tower M23-T2A on Segment 8 Phase 1. The existing access road was included in the previous supplemental survey for the TRTP for

Segment 8 Phase 1 and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2010). 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Boccio", written in a cursive style.

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen