

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

December 7, 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) #22

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On November 22, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for the use of additional wire setup sites (WSS) and for the removal of approximately 83 existing 66 kV structures on Segment 7 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). Additional information was submitted by SCE on December 6, 2010. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed WSS activities only based on the following factors; the removal of 83 existing 66 kV structures is still under review and will be granted under a separate authorization:**

- SCE submitted the following information regarding the request WSS:

Subsequent to approval of the NTPR (NTP #17 dated September 24, 2010) by the California Public Utilities Commission (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 directly north of Tower M54-T1A
- Wire setup site directly north of M28-T3
- Wire setup site directly south of Tower M28-T3
- Wire setup site encompassing Tower M105-T4
- Wire setup site extending southwest of Tower M29-T3
- Wire setup site south of Tower M31-T3
- Wire setup site encompassing Tower M31-T4
- Wire setup site between Tower M32-X1 and M32-T2
- Wire setup site south of Tower M32-T3
- Wire setup site between Tower M32-T5 and M32-T6
- Wire setup site extending southwest of Tower M32-T6
- Wire setup site to the northeast of Tower M33-T1
- Wire setup site extending northeast of Tower M33-T2
- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M34-T2
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M34-T2
- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M34-T4
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M34-T4
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M34-T6
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M35-T1
- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M35-T3

- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M35-T5
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M35-T5
- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M36-T2
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M36-T2
- Wire setup site extending north of Tower M36-T4
- Wire setup site extending south of Tower M36-T4
- Wire setup site extending east of Tower M37-T3
- Wire setup site extending west of Tower M37-T3
- Wire setup site encompassing Tower M37-T4
- Wire setup site extending northeast of Tower M38-T5
- Wire setup site extending west of Tower M38-T5
- Wire setup site extending southeast of Tower M39-T2
- Wire setup site extending northwest of Tower M39-T2
- Wire setup site to the southeast of Tower M39-T4
- Wire setup site directly west of Tower M39-T4
- Wire setup site to the east of Tower M39-T5
- Wire setup site east of Tower M40-T2
- Wire setup site extending southwest of Tower M40-T3
- Wire setup site to the southeast of Tower M41-T5
- Wire setup site to the northwest of Tower M41-T5
- Wire setup site to the west of Tower M42-T2
- Wire setup site to the northwest of Tower M42-T2 and to the east of Tower M42-T3

The disturbance area and wire setup site for Tower M105-T1 and the wire setup site for Tower M105-T2 are located partially on a public golf course. If construction crews need to utilize any area of the golf course, SCE will coordinate with the golf course to ensure that all mitigation measures and APMs regarding recreation are adhered to.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for the Proposed Wire Setup Sites Variance for TRTP, Segment 7 Transmission Line, Los Angeles County, California* dated November 16, 2010 by ICF International. The biological resources within the variance were evaluated during preconstruction surveys associated with Segment 7. Numerous other surveys have occurred within and adjacent to the proposed WSS, including focused surveys for special status species, the jurisdictional delineation for Segment 7, and other preconstruction biological surveys.

Ten vegetation communities and several hydrologic features were mapped within the proposed WSS along Segment 7 and include the following: southern willow scrub, ruderal wetland, coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, California annual grassland, non-native woodland, non-native grassland, ruderal grassland agriculture, and disturbed/developed. In and near the WSS are potentially jurisdictional features (including the San Gabriel River) that will be staked and flagged, and will be avoided by construction or construction support activities. These ESAs include some southern willow scrub riparian habitat that may support least Bell's vireo, which will be avoided. There are also special-status plants in or near the WSS, including San Gabriel oak and southern tarplant. Potential burrowing owl features (ground squirrel burrows) are located in or near some of the WSS. Potential bat roost habitat occurs in various areas along Segment 7. Preconstruction survey sweeps will be performed prior to construction crews mobilizing to these sites and biological monitoring will continue throughout the duration of construction. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

**Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted an email from Matthew Wetherbee, SCE Contingent Archaeologist, dated November 16, 2010 stating that no cultural resources will be affected by the proposed WSS on Segment 7. The proposed WSS were included in previous surveys for the TRTP right-of-way corridor (Pacific Legacy 2007, Pacific Legacy et al. 2010; PCR Services 2010a, 2010b). These cultural resources surveys yielded one cultural resource. This resource, the Woodland Duck Farm (CA-LAN-4079) has been determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of

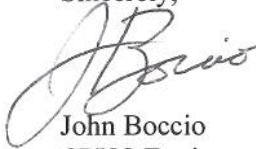


Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). However, due to the possibility of encountering subsurface cultural materials, cultural resource monitoring is required during any ground disturbing activities within the Woodland Duck Farm. No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- All conditions required by NTP #17 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #17, 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