

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

December 20, 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 (Segments 4-11), Variance Request (VR) #25

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On December 17, 2010, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting a revision to the Structure Work Area for Tower M73-T2 on Segment 8, East (Phase III), of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

Subsequent to the approval of NTPR (NTP #13) dated August 24, 2010 by the CPUC, project site conditions were further evaluated and the extension of the Structure Work Area at Tower M73-T2, Segment 8 East (Phase III), has been proposed for purposes of access and constructability. The "Proposed Structure Work Area" requested in this Variance will be used for tower installation and to facilitate access from an existing approved access road.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for Tower M73-T2 Structure Work Area Variance for TRTP, Segment 8 East (Phase 3) Transmission Line* dated December 15, 2010. Biological resources within the biological survey area (BSA = Variance Project Component and 500-foot buffer zone) were evaluated during previous surveys, including focused species surveys and preconstruction biological surveys (ICF 2010). A literature review was also performed as part of the biological review.

Vegetation communities observed within the Variance Project Component include: disturbed/developed, agricultural, and non-native woodland. Vegetation communities observed within the BSA include: agriculture, California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, non-native woodland, and ruderal grassland. No special-status plants were observed in the Variance Project Component during the previous focused and preconstruction surveys. No regulated trees have been recorded for the Variance Project Component. Within the 500-foot buffer of the Variance Project Component, potential burrowing owl features occur, and focused protocol surveys and focused preconstruction surveys have confirmed the absence of burrowing owl (ICF 2010). Potential bat roost habitat (a row of mature eucalyptus trees) also occurs within the 500-foot buffer of the Variance Project Component. No jurisdictional features were mapped within the BSA, and no impacts will occur. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

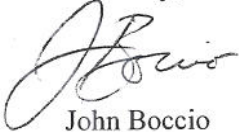
- **Cultural Resources:** SCE submitted an email from Matthew Wetherbee, Contingent Archaeologist, PCR Services, regarding the proposed structure work area at Tower M73-T2 on Segment 8 East (Phase 3) stating that no cultural resources will be affected. The proposed structure work area was included in the previous surveys for the TRTP right-of-way corridor and no cultural resources were

identified within the proposed work area (Pacific Legacy 2007; Panich et al. 2010). 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 #13 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #13, 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