

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 19, 2011

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) #29

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On January 14, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting authorization to use additional parking areas at the Rodeo North and South Contractor Yards that were not included in the site plan for the original yard. The Rodeo North and South Contractor Yards support construction of Segments 4, 5 and 10 Transmission Lines of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Variance to allow for use of additional parking areas at the Rodeo North and South Contractor Yards (Rodeo Yards) that were not included in the original Yard Site Plan. The Rodeo Yards support construction of Segments 4, 5 and 10 Transmission Lines (T/L) of the TRTP.

Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #12 dated August 20, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and an additional site has been proposed for purposes of yard operations. Due to the confined space and high traffic volume at the Rodeo Yards, Henkels & McCoy (the contractor) would like to request a variance for additional parking outside of the original proposed yard area. This area is approximately 150 feet by 100 feet and is located to the southwest of the current yard area. The proposed additional parking area is part of the contractor's current lease but was not included in the original yard site plan. The use of this area would be required for the duration of the TRTP Segments 4, 5 and 10.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a Biological Survey Report for the proposed parking area Variance for TRTP dated January 3, 2011 by ICF International. Biological resources within the Variance Project Component plus a 500-foot buffer (Biological Survey Area [BSA]) 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.

The vegetation communities observed within the BSA include: Mojavean juniper woodland scrub, disturbed Mojavean juniper woodland scrub, ruderal grassland, and disturbed/developed. Only disturbed/developed habitat occurs within the Variance Project Component. No special-status plants were observed in the BSA during the 2010 focused and preconstruction surveys.

Previous focused burrowing owl (*Athene cucicularia*) surveys in 2010 for Segment 5 were negative for burrowing owls or sign of the species within the BSA. However, potential burrowing owl burrows were previously identified within the 500-foot buffer, but none occurred within the Variance Project Component. These burrows were inspected during the 2010 preconstruction surveys and it was determined that they

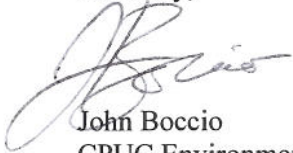
were still able to support burrowing owls. Additional burrowing owl features were identified during 2010 preconstruction surveys, but no burrowing owls or sign of the species were detected. Preconstruction surveys for bats conducted in the vicinity of the Variance Project Component were negative. Although no potential roosting features or suitable foraging habitat were identified, specific mitigation measures (MM 33a-c) would be implemented if any bats or roosting habitat are observed in the BSA. No special-status wildlife or habitats were observed within the BSA. No jurisdictional features are located within the BSA. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural Resources:** SCE submitted a memo stating that no cultural resources will be affected by parking vehicles on the lot located south of Rodeo Yard. As the proposed parking lot is paved, no ground disturbing activities that could impact cultural resources are anticipated. No additional impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

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

- Landowner approval for use of the additional parking area at the Rodeo Yards shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to use of the area.
- All other conditions required by NTP #12 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #12, 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