

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 7, 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) #31

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 4, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow the Segment 7 and 8 66kV underground realignment, along the south side of Edison Avenue and along Oaks Avenue, to use an additional Temporary Construction Disturbance Area, City of Chino, San Bernardino County. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a variance to allow for 66kV underground realignment, along the south side of Edison Avenue and along Oaks Avenue, to use the identified Temporary Construction Disturbance Area. The Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) for Segment 7 and 8 66kV Relocation (NTP #10, dated August 3, 2010) was prepared prior to completion of final design. As a result of this final design and engineering, the underground 66kV trench line locations along the south side of Edison Avenue and along Oaks Avenue, in the City of Chino, have been realigned. The northernmost trench line just south of Edison Avenue has shifted slightly south, and the trench line along Oaks Avenue has shifted east. Additionally, Temporary Construction Disturbance Areas have been added for constructability. The Temporary Construction Disturbance Area will allow for material and equipment set-up during construction of the underground trenches.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for Edison Avenue Underground Line Installation Variance for TRTP, Segment 8 66kV Relocation, San Bernardino County, CA* from ICF International dated February 4, 2011. The Variance Project Component and a 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]) were included in the analysis. The vegetation community for the Variance Project Component was mapped as disturbed/developed. Agriculture, mule fat scrub, nonnative woodland, ruderal grassland, and sparsely vegetated streambed vegetation communities are present on the eastern portion of the BSA.

Potential burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) features occur, and focused protocol surveys and focused preconstruction surveys have confirmed the presence of burrowing owl within the Variance Project Component and BSA. A revised focused burrowing owl preconstruction survey was conducted on January 21, 24, and 25, and burrowing owl individuals were identified; however, no evidence of nesting was observed. A burrowing owl relocation plan for 66kV has been submitted and approved by CDFG.

Bat habitat was found within Ayala Park east of the intersection of Central Avenue and Edison Avenue. A peregrine falcon was observed with the BSA on Magnolia Avenue south of Edison Avenue in August 2010. No other potential habitat or special-status species individuals were observed within the Variance Project

Component or BSA. Jurisdictional features were mapped within the Variance Project Component and BSA. Impacts to special-status biological resources (burrowing owl) and jurisdictional features (8-50-S-1, 8-50-S-2, and 8-50-S-3) are expected with construction of the Variance Project Component.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memo from Archaeologist Matthew Wetherbee stating that no cultural resources will be affected by the proposed underground realignment and addition of a temporary construction disturbance area for the TRTP Segment 8 66kV underground work in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed locations were included in the previous surveys for the TRTP right-of-way corridor and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007; PCR 2010). Work will not take place outside of the existing right-of-way. No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- Per CDFG Staff Environmental Scientist Erinn Wilson's email dated January 27, 2011, Edison may proceed with the collapse of owl burrows within the breeding season, which starts February 1st, provided the work is conducted by the end of the week, and the burrows are inspected and determined to be unoccupied by a Lead Burrowing Owl biologist. If the burrows are not collapsed by Friday (February 4th) SCE shall consult with Erinn Wilson (CDFG).
- All conditions required by NTP #10 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #10, 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