

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 9, 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) #33

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 8, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow use of the existing SCE Operations and Maintenance access road from Edison Avenue to Tower M0-T6 on Segment 8 Transmission Line East (Phase 2) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Variance to allow use of the existing SCE Operations and Maintenance (O & M) access road from Edison Avenue to Tower M0-T6 on Segment 8 Transmission Line East (Phase 2) of TRTP in the City of Chino, San Bernardino County. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #13 dated August 24, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and an alternative access road has been proposed for access to Tower M0-T6. Specifically, the Contractor has requested access to Tower M0-T6 along an existing access road from Edison Avenue, in the City of Chino.

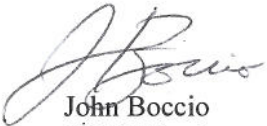
- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a report titled *Biological Survey Report for an Access Road to M0-T6 Variance for TRTP, Segment 8 East (Phase 2) Transmission Line* from ICF International dated January 6, 2011. The Variance Project Component and a 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]) were included in the analysis. A literature review was performed as part of the biological review. The Variance Project Component was mapped as disturbed/developed. Two vegetation communities were mapped within the BSA and include California annual grassland and disturbed/developed habitat. Potential burrowing owl (*Athene cucicularia*) features occur within the northeast portion of the 500-foot buffer and the Variance Project Component. Focused protocol surveys (ICF 2010xx) and focused preconstruction surveys (ICF 2010ce) have confirmed the absence of burrowing owl. No jurisdictional features were mapped within the BSA (ICF 2010h). No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum with the Variance Request from Matthew Wetherbee, Archaeologist, MSc, RPA, dated January 26, 2011, stating that no cultural resources will be impacted by the use of the existing SCE Operations and Maintenance access road to Tower M0-T6 on Segment 8 East (Phase 2). The unpaved access road is located east of the intersection of Edison Avenue and Cypress Avenue in the City of Chino. The access road travels north from Edison Avenue for approximately 400 feet to the tower site location. The northern half of the existing access road was included in the previous survey for the TRTP right-of-way corridor and no cultural resources were identified. The southern half (approximately 150 feet) of the existing access road lies outside of the TRTP right-of-way, but

within a heavily disturbed area, including one residential unpaved driveway. These areas are likely to consist of previously disturbed subsurface stratigraphic horizons that are unlikely to yield subsurface cultural material. Furthermore, no improvements will occur to the existing access road. SCE states that based on a review of the archaeological database, aerial photographs of the existing access road, use of the access road will have no significant impact on cultural resources and has a low probability of impacting previously unrecorded cultural resources. Work will not extend beyond the existing prism of the access road. 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 #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,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen