

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 14, 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) #35

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 14, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow use of an additional Wire Setup Site (WSS) between Oaks Avenue and Tower M46-T7B north of Edison Avenue on the Segment 8 Transmission Line East (Phase 3) 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 an additional Wire Setup Site between Oaks Avenue and Tower M46-T7B north of Edison Avenue on Segment 8 T/L East (Phase 3) of the 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 additional Wire Setup Site has been proposed.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a letter from ICF International dated February 11, 2011 regarding the proposed Segment 8 Phase 3 WSS M46-T7 Variance. The Project Component is mapped disturbed/developed. General and burrowing owl preconstruction surveys were submitted to the CPUC and CDFG the week of January 24, 2011. Burrowing owl focused surveys identified potential burrowing owl features, but no active burrows or burrowing owls were found within the Project Component. Previous surveys and preconstruction surveys were negative for burrowing owls and sign (e.g., feathers, excrement, tracks, prey remains, and pellets). No other special-status animal species were identified during preconstruction surveys. Nesting birds were also not observed during the surveys. The Project Component supports jurisdictional waters (8-69-S-3), which will be avoided. During the morning sweep on January 31, 2011, no special-status species including burrowing owl or burrows were observed within the Project Component. One red-tailed hawk (no nest) was observed on M6-T3, outside of the Project Component. 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, stating that no cultural resources will be affected by the proposed WSS between Oaks Avenue and tower M46-T7B on Segment 8 East (Phase 3) within the City of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed WSS was included in the previous survey for the TRTP right-of-way corridor and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007). Work will not extend beyond the 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:

- 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