

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 23, 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) #37

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 19, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to modify the boundaries of Material Yard 75 South, as approved under Notice to Proceed #23, in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles 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 modified yard boundaries at Material Yard 75 South in support of Segments 6 and 11 and located adjacent to Segment 7 of the TRTP in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County. The yard boundaries are being modified to allow SCE to gain access to the property rather than incurring a delay while the property owner removes rubble. Total disturbance area will not change (15 acres).

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted an updated Biological Survey Report for the Proposed Material Yard 75 South Variance from ICF International dated February 11, 2011, which considers a different footprint from the Project Component described in the Biological Review for Material Yard 75 South dated December 24, 2010. The updated footprint, the Variance Project Component, involves the addition of 3.1 acres to the northern boundary and the subtraction of 3.1 acres, primarily in the northeastern corner, but also including portions of the western and southern perimeter. The Variance Project Component and a 500-foot buffer (Biological Study Area [BSA]) were included in this analysis.

The Variance Project Component was mapped as disturbed/developed with small areas of coastal sage scrub. Four vegetation communities were mapped within the BSA and include coastal sage scrub, mule fat scrub, open water, and disturbed/developed; however, lands within the 500-foot buffer of the BSA outside the Variance Project Component are composed primarily of disturbed or developed areas associated with Interstate 605, active sand mining operations, and equipment and staging areas. Special-status wildlife and plant species were not identified within the BSA. Three jurisdictional features, 7-11-S-1, 7-11-S-2, and 7-11-L-3, are located outside of the Variance Project Component, but within the BSA. These jurisdictional features will be flagged and avoided. A survey of the Variance Project Component and BSA was conducted on February 4, 2011. No burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) or sign of the species were observed in the BSA (ICF 2010dl); no coastal California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica*) were observed within the BSA (ICF 2010ww); no bat roosting habitat was observed within the Project Component; and no special-status plants or regulated trees are located within the BSA (ICF 2010at, 2010av). No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE states that no cultural resources or paleontological deposits will be affected by modifying the boundary of Material Yard 75 South. The modification of the yard is covered by a previous cultural resources assessment (Belcourt 2010). The previous assessment documents that the area is currently in use as a reclamation facility. The soils present at this facility consist of various fill materials from unknown locations. 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 #23 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #23, 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