

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 8, 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) #49

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On April 6, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow construction of Segment 8 East (Phase 2) Transmission Line from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days per week. Helicopters will not be utilized within 500-feet of residences or churches on Sundays, except for highway and/or freeway crossings, as required by issued permits for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project in the Cities of Chino and Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Additional information was submitted April 7th. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Variance to allow construction of Segment 8 East (Phase 2) Transmission Line (T/L) from approximately 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Monday through Sunday. Helicopters will not be utilized within 500-feet of residences or churches on Sundays, except for highway and/or freeway crossings, as required by issued permits for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in the Cities of Chino and Ontario, San Bernardino County, California. Segment 8 Phase 2 transmission lines are critical infrastructure, needed for reliability during heat storms, fires or other issues that could increase demands on the grid. Current construction activities within Phase 2 include wire stringing. While these activities are being completed to avoid impacts on nesting birds, nesting events on Segment 8 Phase 2 have been increasing at a rate faster than construction can be completed. As nesting events accelerate the construction schedule is prolonged. To avoid impacts to nesting birds and to complete construction of critical infrastructure prior to the peak demand season, SCE's Contractor needs to accelerate their work schedule to seven days a week, 12-hours a day.

The Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR) for Segment 8 East (Phase 2 and 3) T/L (NTP#13 dated August 24, 2010) specifies that equipment operating hours for removal, installation and upgrade of the transmission lines would occur from approximately 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The NTPR did not specify the days that construction would take place. This variance request is being provided to clarify the days of construction for Segment 8 Phase 2 T/L.

Segment 8 Phase 2 T/L primarily occurs within non-residential and dairy operation areas. However, the extents between structures M0-T4 and M1-T2, and between M4-T4 and M5-T5, occur within 500-feet of residential properties. Helicopters will not be used within 500-feet of these residential property or church properties on Sunday, except as necessary to comply with permits for highway or freeway crossings.

SCE has received permission from the City of Chino and the City of Ontario for construction to occur on Sundays.

- **Biological Resources:** No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.
- **Land Use:** Permits from the City of Chino and City of Ontario have been issued for the extended work schedule. For highway and/or freeway crossings, Caltrans authorization shall be provided prior to the commencement of construction.

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

- SCE shall submit to the CPUC any applicable Caltrans permits for the described work and work hours prior to the commencement of construction.
- SCE shall give advanced notification to church facilities for any work within 500-feet on Sundays.
- 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