

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 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) #68

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On May 10, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request regarding the CPUC Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) process. Additional requested information was provided on June 14, 2011. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- The CPUC has an established process for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project whereby SCE can request a temporary work, staging, or access area not identified or evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) that is needed for a short-term period (60 days or less). The location of the TEWS must be a pre-disturbed area with no sensitive resources/receptors present or in the surrounding area. The location of the TEWS may not be used until authorization is provided by the CPUC Environmental Monitor. Currently, if a bird establishes a nest (a sensitive resource) in or adjacent to the TEWS area, the TEWS is no longer valid. SCE is requesting approval of the approach below to this scenario with respect to the TEWS process.

- SCE proposes the following three approaches to TEWS area, based on timing and/or type of area:

For new requests for use of a temporary work space with nesting birds within 300 feet, the Variance process would be followed. Part of that process would include SCE coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to obtain a buffer reduction for the nesting bird location(s).

For existing TEWS work areas, if nesting birds become established within 300 feet subsequent to the TEWS approval, SCE can utilize the existing CDFG bird nest buffer reduction review and approval process. Therefore, no variance would be required.

For existing access roads approved through the TEWS process, if nesting birds become established within 300 feet, SCE can continue to use the access roads for ingress/egress. This approach is based on correspondence with CDFG (February 8, 2011) that indicated bird nest buffers would not preclude continued use of a roadway for construction vehicle travel.

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

- All conditions and management practices outlined in the February 8, 2011, SCE memorandum to CDFG (and approved by CDFG) will continue to be implemented with respect to bird nest buffers and access roads.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Boccio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Boccio" clearly distinguishable.

John Boccio  
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen