

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 3, 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) #91

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On September 28, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow for the placement of mats on the south side of Parkwood Drive near Tower 45, to provide additional road width for construction vehicles and equipment, on Segment 5 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) in Los Angeles County, California. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE submitted a request for a Variance to allow for the placement of mats on the south side of Parkwood Drive near Tower 45, to provide additional road width for construction vehicles and equipment, on Segment 5 T/L of the TRTP in Los Angeles County, California. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #15 dated September 10, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions changed and an additional disturbance area near the Tower 45 work area is needed to allow continued use of an access road. Parkwood Drive is an asphalt-paved, no improvement access road previously approved for use by the CPUC for the project. The north side of a portion of the road located approximately 1,000 feet east-southeast of Tower 45 is damaged with irrigation pipelines exposed. To avoid driving on the damaged portion of the road, plastic mats would be temporarily installed on the south side of the road to provide additional road width. The proposed disturbance area is illustrated in the enclosed figure and measures approximately 14 feet by 8 feet (112 square feet). The proposed disturbance area is unpaved and devoid of vegetation.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological resource information with the Variance Request dated September 28, 2011. The Project Component (mat installation area and 500-foot buffer) is located near Construct 45 and consists of developed/disturbed land. Surrounding areas consist of California Annual Grassland and Mojave Mixed Woody Scrub. Preconstruction general and bat surveys were completed on September 20 and October 8, 2010, respectively. Construction biological monitoring has been ongoing since October 2010. The Segment 5 T/L Parkwood Drive biological resources sweep was performed by ECORP Consulting Inc. on September 27, 2011. The sweep included the mat installation area and 500-foot buffer (Project Component). No special-status biological resources were detected near the Project Component. No burrowing owl preconstruction surveys have been completed within the Project Component since no suitable burrows have been identified.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated September 26, 2011, titled *TRTP Variance Request – Seg 5, CT-45 Parkwood Mats – Cultural Clearance for Road Repair of*

*Parkwood Drive Extension on Segment 5 near CT-45* with the Variance Request. The memorandum states that no cultural resources will be impacted by the requested Parkwood Drive road repair work east of CT-45 on Segment 5 as part of this Variance Request in support of TRTP. A cultural record search and surveys (Ahmet et al. 2006; Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010a, 2010b), and a paleontological literature review (Gust and Scott 2009), have been previously conducted for this area of Segment 5. This research showed that the requested road repair area east of CT-45 was not surveyed. The unsurveyed portion of the requested additional access road was surveyed for this Variance (Pacific Legacy 2011). This research and survey identified no cultural or paleontological resources.

The paleontological review indicated that the proposed Parkwood Drive road repair area contains soils that have no potential to yield paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009). Since there is little possibility that paleontological resources exist, paleontological monitoring is not recommended during project construction activities.

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance.

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

- All conditions required by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #15 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #15, 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