

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 9, 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) #104

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On November 2, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to use the 605 Shoofly approved work area as a Contractor Yard, on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) West (Phase 4) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Industry, 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 use the 605 Shoofly approved work area as a Contractor Yard, on Segment 8 T/L West (Phase 4) of the TRTP, in the City of Industry, Los Angeles County, California. This area is located on the east side of the I-605 and consists of the approved work area that encompasses ESPs #1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, and 5, and Structures M7-T5, M7-T6, M9-T2, M42-T7, and M9-T3.

Contractor Yard facilities include: contractor equipment and material storage areas, tool storage trailers/shipping containers, roll-off trash containers, temporary sanitary facilities and wash stations, fire equipment and spill kits, vehicle parking areas, and lighting/security.

Proposed activities at the Contractor Yard include: yard development, operation and maintenance; contractor equipment and material receipt, storage and shipping; vehicle and equipment parking, repair and fueling; and welding, assembly and cutting of various transmission line components.

The site is surrounded to the west and north by an existing block wall (I-605) and block wall (existing commercial development), respectively. To the south, the site is surrounded by equestrian facilities and to the east by an existing drainage and dense tree line. Site screening is not proposed for the yard.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological summary of the proposed Segment 8 West 605 Shoofly Contractor Yard (Project Component) with the Variance Request. The proposed site occurs within approved TRTP work areas. Construction has been on-going in this area since June 19, 2011, and the following surveys have been conducted in the area: general biological preconstruction (May 11, 2011), and bat habitat assessment (May 17, 2011). A burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) preconstruction survey was not conducted as no suitable burrowing owl burrows were present. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed and ruderal grassland vegetation communities. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer of the Project Component consist of southern arroyo willow riparian forest, nonnative woodland, ruderal grassland, and disturbed/developed. These surrounding vegetation communities will not be impacted by the Project Component. The Project Component is not located within critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*). A coastal California

gnatcatcher was detected in June 2011; however, the individual was dispersing/foraging and not breeding. The jurisdictional area southeast of the Project Component provides suitable potential habitat for riparian birds and focused, protocol surveys in 2011 determined that riparian birds were not present. No active bird nests occur within the work areas. Biological resources including potential bat habitat, jurisdictional resources (wetland 8-8-W-1), and California walnuts (*Juglans californica*) occur within the 500-foot buffer. A jurisdictional resource does occur to the southeast of the Project Component; however, the feature will not be impacted by operations and maintenance of the yard. Special-status biological resources are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking where applicable.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this Variance and the conditions noted below.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated October 3, 2011, titled SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resources Guidelines for Segment 8 Phase 4 Variance Request – 605 Shoofly Area Contractor Yard Guard. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed 605 Shoofly Contractor Yard on Segment 8 Phase IV in support of the TRTP. The entire proposed area, with the exception of approximately 0.26 acres, was included in the previous surveys for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010, 2011; PCR 2011). The 0.26 acre portion is situated in a highly disturbed area that has been subjected to the previous use of the area as a nursery and its current use for TRTP construction activities, and therefore has a very low potential to encounter any previously unidentified cultural resources.

Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that all of the proposed area is located within Quaternary alluvium (Qa) and artificial fill, which have a very low sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010).

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

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

- All conditions required by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #24 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #24, 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