

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 28, 2012

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) #122

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 22, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to add an additional parking and staging area adjacent to an approved permanent access road at Running Branch Road within the City of Diamond Bar on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) (Phase 1) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), in the City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino 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 add a staging area, adjacent to the existing access road that extends south of Running Branch Road. The proposed staging area is approximately 0.118 acres, and is located in the City of Diamond Bar, County of Los Angeles. Access to the proposed staging area will be from the existing approved access road.

The proposed staging area will be used for staging equipment/vehicles to allow inspectors, monitors, contractors and crews to park and stage equipment. The additional staging area will allow constructional personnel and equipment to park and access sites that have limited work space at structures M56-T1 and M55-T2. The proposed staging area will also allow construction crews to park sweepers (used to mitigate trackout) and to secure equipment trailers before entering as to not block the access road.

The proposed staging area is composed of non-vegetated dirt/soil and with small patches of ruderal grass. Drive and crush will be needed to utilize this area. No ground disturbance activity or improvements will be needed to utilize the proposed staging area.

The proposed staging area is located within 100 feet of a residential property; however, the site will be used for parking and staging only. No construction, wire stringing, drilling or tower assembly will take place within the proposed staging area boundary. Vehicles will only be present between the Project's approved operation hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE previously submitted a biological survey report with a TEWS request on January 30, 2012. The report documents the biological conditions at the proposed Segment 8 Phase 1 parking and staging area adjacent to Running Branch Road (Project Component) and the 500-foot buffer. Based on a review of the TRTP biological resource maps, the Project Component does not contain any known biological resources or ESAs. Biological resources in the vicinity included potential bat habitat, California walnut (*Juglans californica*), intermediate mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). The site is considered an active construction work area and is surveyed for biological resources and as required by the EIR.

The Project Component and the 500-foot buffer are mapped as disturbed/developed land, non-native woodland, coast live oak woodland and coastal sage scrub.

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 February 10, 2012, regarding the SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L Phase 1 Variance Request – Staging off Running Branch Road. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed variance request for 0.118 acres for staging area along the Running Branch Road access in support of Segment 8 Phase 1 Transmission Line of the TRTP. Over 80 percent of the requested area was included in the previous surveys for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2010a, 2010b). The portion of the requested area that had not been previously surveyed is heavily disturbed and therefore the potential for encountering cultural resources is low. Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the proposed access road is located within the Puente Formation, a geologic unit that has a high sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Aron 2010). However, because no ground disturbance is planned as part of the proposed work, no monitoring for paleontological resources is required at this time.

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) #11 shall apply to the subject area and activities, including nesting bird surveys prior to and during use of the subject site.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #11, 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