

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) #123

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On March 27, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for the addition of approximately 7.212 acres of existing paved parking lot areas adjacent to structures M39-T1, M39-T2 and M39-T3 on Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) within Unincorporated 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 for the addition of approximately 7.212 acres of existing paved parking lot areas adjacent to structures M39-T1, M39-T2 and M39-T3. These parking lots were previously approved for temporary extra work spaces (TEWS) and are needed to further support scheduled construction activities. The requested paved parking lot areas are located in Unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The requested parking lot areas are located within existing paved areas south of structures M39-T1 and M39-T2 and north of M39-T3. These two areas will be used for staging vehicles and equipment related to scheduled construction activities. Work currently scheduled at M39-T1 and M39-T2 includes foundation installation, structure assembly, structure erection and wire stringing activities. The requested staging areas are needed to support construction and to supplement limited approved work areas within the Whittier Narrows park area.

The requested parking lot area south of M39-T1 and M39-T2 is approximately 3.835 acres. The requested parking lot area north of M39-T3 is approximately 3.377 acres. The total area of the two requested acres is approximately 7.212 acres. Access to these areas will be via the approved construction roads off Durfee Avenue and Santa Anita Avenue. No ground disturbance or vegetation impacts will occur as a result of this variance request.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the variance request stating that the parking lots adjacent to M39-T1 and M39-T2 and M39-T3 (Project Component) is located within previously surveyed portions of the Segment 7 Transmission Line for TRTP. The Project Component is characterized as a paved parking lot. Vegetation communities and biological resources located within 500 feet of the Project Component include additional developed land (ICF 2012). The Project Component is not located within occupied habitat or critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) or least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). As of March 23, 2012, eleven bird nests have been located within 500 feet of the Project Component. American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Redhead (*Aythya americana*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) and

Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) species events and a potential solitary bat roost occur within 500 feet of the Project Component. Special-status biological resources and bird nests are demarcated in the field by Environmentally Sensitive Area staking, where applicable. Construction has been on-going in this area since November 2010 (i.e., wire removal and tower removal). The area was last surveyed for biological resources on March 22, 2012.

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

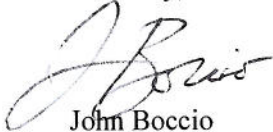
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum dated March 12, 2012 regarding the SCE TRTP Variance Request - Cultural Clearance for M39-T1 through M39-T3 Parking and Staging – Segment 7, Unincorporated Los Angeles County. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the M39-T1 through M39-T3 parking lots on Segment 7 as part of this variance request in support of the TRTP. Approximately 50 percent of the paved parking lots were included in the previous surveys for the TRTP project (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010; Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). The remaining portions of the Project Component lie outside previously surveyed TRTP areas, but in areas where there will be no additional ground disturbance.

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) #17 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #17, 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