

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 19, 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) #126

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On April 17, 2012, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for the additional area at wire setup site (WSS) 7.15 of approximately 0.0923 acres southwest of structure M31-T2 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 to add approximately 0.0923 acres of Wire Setup Site (WSS) area on the southwest side of WSS 7.15, located just southwest of structure M31-T1. The purpose of the proposed additional area is to aid in the stringing of TRTP's 500 kV line safely over a 66 kV distribution line, near the junction of the I-605 freeway and Arrow Highway. This additional WSS area was previously approved for a temporary extra work space (TEWS) and is needed to support wire stringing activities beyond the TEWS expiration date of April 16, 2012. The area requested is an irregular polygon located in the City of Irwindale, County of Los Angeles.

The additional WSS area is a southwestern extension of approved WSS 7.15. This proposed area is an existing non-vegetated access road that is used by the onsite quarry. The additional area is needed to maintain the 3:1 ratio of excess line, once cut, to the height of the tower that is pulled through. Access to this site will be via the approved construction road from Avenida Barbosa Street. The access road and WSS 7.15 were previously approved for vehicles used for wire stringing and other project related traffic.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the variance request stating that the wire setup site (Project Component) is located within previously surveyed portions of the Segment 7 Transmission Line for TRTP. The Project Component is characterized as a disturbed/developed concrete yard with no native vegetation. No sensitive biological resources or habitats occur within the work area. A potential San Diego desert woodrat nest was observed within the 500-foot buffer of the Project Component. No ESA staking and flagging were established as the nest occurs within 10 feet outside the work area behind a fence. A jurisdictional feature occurs within the buffer north of the Project Component. No regulatory trees occur within the survey area. No special-status species were observed. Per a review of FRED on April 12, 2012, no new biological resources have been detected within the Project Component or buffer area.

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 April 10, 2012 regarding the SCE TRTP Variance Request - Cultural and Paleontological Resources Guidelines for Segment 7 Variance Request- WSS 7.15, Unincorporated Los Angeles County. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the addition to WSS 7.15 on Segment 7 as part of this variance request in support of the TRTP. Although the area falls outside the TRTP cultural surveys area, it does fall within the records search area for TRTP which yielded no previously recorded cultural resources (Pacific Legacy 2007, 2010). Previous paleontological assessments for TRTP define the sediment type in this area as “gravels and sands of major streams and alluvial fans” (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010). These types of soils are considered very low sensitivity for harboring significant paleontological resources. No further cultural or paleontological resources assessments or monitoring are required for this variance request.

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