

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 28, 2014

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) #161

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On August 14, 2014, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for a temporary guard structure area expansion on the north side of State Route 60 on the Segment 7 Transmission Line (T/L) of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) within the City of El Monte, County of Los Angeles. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a variance for a guard structure area expansion on the north side of State Route 60 on Segment 7 T/L of the TRTP within the City of El Monte, County of Los Angeles. Subsequent to the approval of NTPR (NTP #17 dated September 24, 2010) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and a guard structure area needs to be expanded for constructability purposes. The additional guard structure area is situated between two CPUC-approved disturbance areas: a 66 kV work area to the northeast and a guard structure area to the south. The additional guard structure area, which is needed to support wire stringing operations over State Route 60, measures approximately 0.116 acre. Based upon existing site conditions, vegetation removal will occur, but no grading is planned.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the variance request. The proposed additional work area is within the SCE TRTP protocol and focused survey corridor. The proposed additional work area is within developed/disturbed community. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include disturbed/developed, ruderal wetland, Southern arroyo willow riparian forest, and open water. No special-status plants or regulated trees occur within the variance project component or 500-foot buffer.

Special-status wildlife observed within the 500-foot buffer include Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), and yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechial*). A potential burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) feature was observed within the 500-foot buffer. Jurisdictional features within the 500-foot buffer include 7-31A-S-1 and 7-33-S-1. A biological monitor will perform a clearance sweep of the proposed location prior to site occupation to ensure sensitive biological resources are identified and avoided during the proposed activities.

Temporary impacts will be mitigated on-site per the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and APM BIO-1a, as well as SWPPP requirements, weed control (Mitigation Measure [MM] B-3a), dust control (MM AQ-1a), and visual resources (MM V-1 and APM AES-8 and APM AES-13).

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 August 5, 2014 regarding the SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resource Guidelines for Segment 7 Variance Request – Guard Structure Expansion near State Route 60. The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed variance request for a guard structure expansion near State Route 60 in support of the TRTP Segment 7, in the City of El Monte, Los Angeles County. The proposed area for this variance request was included in the previous survey for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2007). Therefore, no further cultural resources work is required for this variance request.

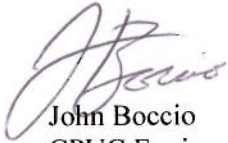
Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the proposed area is located within gravel and sand of major streams and alluvial fans, which has a very low sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron 2010).

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) #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