

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 14, 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) #166

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On October 31, 2014, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request for temporary work areas for water stand tanks on the 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 for temporary work areas for water stand tanks on Segment 8 T/L Phase 1 of the TRTP, in the City of Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #41 dated August 14, 2014) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and two water stand tank disturbance areas are needed for constructability purposes.

Specific information for each stand tank disturbance area is provided below:

Two Stand Tanks West of Eucalyptus Avenue and Canon Lane

- The proposed disturbance area is situated at the end of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of the intersection of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of the intersection of Eucalyptus Avenue and Canon Lane. The proposed disturbance area measures approximately 0.225 acre.
- A temporary aboveground water line will be installed to connect a fire hydrant along Eucalyptus Avenue to the water stand tanks. The water line will cross the sidewalk and then proceed southwest along an existing fence to the stand tanks. A ramp will be placed over the portion of the water line that crosses the sidewalk to allow continued safe use by pedestrians.
- For security purposes, temporary fencing will be installed, as needed, around the portion of the disturbance area at the end of Eucalyptus Avenue.
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be installed, as needed, and may include installation of crushed rock in the stand tank area.
- Based upon existing site conditions, vegetation removal and minor grading is planned to allow level placement of the water tanks.

### Two Stand Tanks Southwest of Chino Hills Parkway and Eucalyptus Avenue

- The proposed disturbance area is situated within an overflow unpaved parking lot adjacent to Veterans Park, southwest of the intersection of Chino Hills Parkway and Eucalyptus Avenue. The proposed disturbance area measures approximately 0.352 acre.
  - A temporary aboveground water line will be installed to connect a fire hydrant located along Eucalyptus Avenue to the water stand tanks.
  - Temporary fencing will be installed within the disturbance area, as needed, to secure the site.
  - SWPPP BMPs will be installed, as needed, and may include installation of crushed rock in the stand tank area.
  - Based on the existing site conditions, minor grading to allow level placement of the water tanks is planned; no vegetation removal appears needed.
- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted biological information with the variance request for the Segment 8 T/L Phase 1 temporary work areas for water stand tanks (Variance Project Component) and the associated 500-foot buffer. The Variance Project Component plus the 500-foot buffer is referred to as the Biological Study Area (BSA). The proposed additional work area is within the SCE TRTP protocol and focused survey corridor. A biological monitor will perform a clearance sweep of the proposed locations prior to site occupation to ensure sensitive biological resources are identified and avoided during the proposed activities.

Site 1: The vegetation community within Site 1 of the Variance Project Component includes disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within 500 feet of Site 1 include California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and ruderal grassland. Regulated tree species, western sycamore (*Plantanus racemosa*), occurs within the 500-foot buffer of Site 1. No special-status wildlife species were observed within the 500-foot buffer of Site 1; however, a potential burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) feature occurs within the 500-foot buffer of Site 1.

Site 2: Vegetation communities within Site 2 include disturbed/developed, nonnative woodland, and ruderal grassland. Vegetation communities within 500 feet of Site 2 include bunchgrass grassland, California annual grassland, disturbed/developed, mule fat scrub, nonnative woodland, ruderal grassland, and Southern arroyo willow riparian forest. Regulated tree species within the 500-foot buffer of Site 2 include blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicanus*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Special-status wildlife species observed within the 500-foot buffer of Site 2 include Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), white tailed kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), and willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii*). San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) midden was observed within the 500-foot buffer of Site 2.

Jurisdictional resources within the Variance Project Component were evaluated during the 2010 jurisdictional delineation for Segments 7 and 8 (ICF 2010h). Jurisdictional features 8-39-S-1, 8-39-S-2, 8-39-S-3, 8-39-W-1, and 8-39-W-2 are located within the 500-foot buffer of Site 2. Jurisdictional features mapped within the BSA will be avoided by the Variance Project Component. Subsequently identified potential jurisdictional features will be staked and flagged as Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESAs) for avoidance.

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 27, 2014 with the Variance Request titled the *SCE TRTP Cultural and Paleontological Resources Guidelines for Segment 8 T/L Phase I Chino Hills Underground – Temporary Work Areas for Water Stand Tanks, City of Chino Hills*,

*San Bernardino County.* The memorandum states that no cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by the proposed Variance request in support of the TRTP Segment 8 Phase 1 Chino Hills Underground. The majority of the proposed areas in support of this variance were included in the previous survey for the TRTP and no cultural resources were identified (Pacific Legacy 2013). Approximately 30 percent of the proposed total disturbance area was not included within the previous surveys. A cultural resources survey was conducted on October 23, 2014, and the results of the surveys were negative (Pacific Legacy 2014).

Previous paleontological assessments conducted for the TRTP indicate that the underlying geology for the proposed Variance request area is located within the Miocene Puente Formation, which has a high sensitivity for yielding paleontological resources (Gust and Scott 2009; Aron and Kelly 2010); and Quaternary Alluvium (Qa), which has a none-to-low sensitivity for containing paleontological resources. A paleontological monitor will spot check the minor grading proposed for leveling the area located at the end of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of the intersection of Eucalyptus Avenue and Canon Lane, to determine whether this activity has the potential to yield significant paleontological resources.

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:**

- A paleontological monitor shall spot check the minor grading proposed for leveling the area located at the end of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of the intersection of Eucalyptus Avenue and Canon Lane, to determine whether this activity has the potential to yield significant paleontological resources.
- Prior to the start of construction, the area requested in this Variance shall be staked and reviewed and approved by the CPUC Environmental Monitor.
- All conditions required by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #41 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #41, 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