

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

DRAFT

October 16, 2007

Donald Johnson
Project Manager
Southern California Edison
2131 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, C 911770

RE: SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1 Project - Notice to Proceed (NTP #1)

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On October 10, 2007, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for use of the Mojave Marshalling Yard. Per the request the yard will primarily be used to store construction equipment and materials for the project.

The SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by CPUC Docket #A.04-12-007, SCH #2005061161 on March 1, 2007. The Forest Service is the federal Lead Agency for the preparation of the Project's EIR/EIS in compliance with NEPA. The Proposed yard location does not occur in Forrest Service land thus no approval from the Forrest service is required. **NTP #1 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- Per the SCE NTP request (including background materials submitted with the request) dated October 10, 2007:
 1. The Mojave yard will serve as a material and equipment storage yard, and will support Project construction activities. Activities and items that will possibly be present or active at this yard site throughout the duration of the Project are office trailers, vehicle parking, equipment storage, steel delivery and shake out, spill kit storage, fire equipment storage, wire storage, roll-off trash container, roll-off steel disposal container, portable toilets, steel stub angles, rebar and rebar cages, form cans and associated foundation items, emergency helicopter maintenance, as well as welding and torch work. Welding and torch work activities will be limited to emergency and mechanical needs only. Open flame activities that may be performed on this property will have a water truck and fire watch present at all times.
 2. SCE has obtained a lease agreement from the property owner for the premises located at 1426 HWY 58, Mohave, Kern County, Ca, which in the agreement is defined as a parking lot.
 3. The Mojave yard will be active from October 2007 until Spring of 2009.
 4. The Mojave yard site consists entirely of a paved surface that is used to park big-rig trucks and other heavy equipment. In regard to air quality, little dust-producing activities are expected to occur as a result of use of the Mojave yard.
 5. In terms of biological resources no vegetation is present. "As such, no native vegetation will be disturbed as a result of use of the Mojave yard by IPC. As such, no biological resources are anticipated to be present or impacted as a result of use of the Mojave yard by IPC. Therefore, no restoration or rehabilitation efforts will be required for the Mojave yard. There is a two-acre

patch of degraded native vegetation located immediately northwest of the northwest corner of the yard. This vegetation patch was surveyed for the presence of desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, burrowing owl, and other sensitive wildlife species on 27 September 2007. Vegetation consists of highly scattered saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*). No sign of sensitive wildlife was observed in this adjacent vegetation. Abandoned, collapsed burrows of coyote (*Canis latrans*) and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) were recorded, as was scat from black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). However, no burrows capable of supporting burrowing owls were observed. Because this vegetation patch will not be disturbed during use of the Mojave yard, no impacts to biological resources are expected to occur.”

6. Because the Mojave yard site has been previously disturbed, and consists entirely of a paved surface that is used to park big-rig trucks and other heavy equipment, no impacts to cultural resources or paleontological resources are expected to occur. A report summarizing a review of cultural resources was submitted as part of the request.
7. The SCE use of the yard should not significantly change any impacts from that of existing usage levels in terms of water, land use, noise, socioeconomics, traffic or visual resources.

The conditions noted below shall be met by PG&E and its contractors:

- All project mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented during construction activities/use of the proposed yard space. Some measures are on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Notice to Proceed shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel shall be appropriately trained on environmental issues including protocols for biological resources, unanticipated cultural materials, as well as SWPPP mandates. A log shall be maintained on-site with the names of all crew personnel trained.
- No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes to construction technique or mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a Variance Request shall be submitted for CPUC review and approval.
- Project related vehicles and equipment with diesel engines shall limit idle times to no more than 10-minutes.
- If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen