

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

April 2, 2008

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

RE: SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1 – Variance Request #1

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On April 1, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to allow additional temporary road construction along the Shoo-fly portion of Section 1, Segment 1. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- Per the variance request:
 1. SCE requests a slight change in Project Description from ‘Overland Travel’ road to ‘New Construction (Temporary)’ road to access Structure 18, from an existing dirt road to the west near Shoo-fly Structure 17. Southern California Edison is the land owner for the proposed temporary road area.
 2. The approximately 310-foot long temporary road to Shoo-fly Structure 18, was previously identified as ‘Overland Travel’ also known as ‘drive and crush’, and has been thus accessed by the drilling rig and anchor rig. However, due to the nature of the slope and the unimproved Overland Travel access, this originally proposed access does not provide sufficient safety for the large crane required to install the structure. The road is anticipated to be about 15 feet wide, with a slight amount of side-cast on either side for a total disturbance width of about 18 feet. The road’s grade is not anticipated to exceed 8 percent.
 3. Clearance surveys were conducted for both cultural and biological resources during environmental review of the Shoo-fly. Coverage of this area during the previous cultural resources survey was confirmed during a 31 March 2008 telephone conversation with Mr. James J. Schmidt, Project Manager with Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc. An updated biological survey was conducted several times during March 2008, the most recent dated 31 March. Grading of this road will result in temporary disturbance to approximately 0.13 acres of sparse chamise chaparral vegetation. No cultural resources are present along the alignment. Several species of finch (lesser goldfinch, house finch) were observed displaying pre-nesting behavior along the steep cliff faces to the southwest of the site. Violet-green swallows were observed entering crevices in the cliff face, presumably to nest. An old raptor nest is also located in this cliff face, but no sign of recent activity has been recorded. These resources are located no closer than about 175 feet to the Structure 18 site and proposed temporary road. No disturbance is anticipated to these birds given their location along the cliff face, the distance, and the temporary duration of the activities.
 4. Per e-mail correspondence received from Burns and McDonnell on 4-2-08, Dan Blankenship of the CDFG was contacted and informed of the potential nests. A field visit has been scheduled with CDFG on April 3, 2008 to review the site. (This variance is conditioned to allow the proposed road construction if CDFG agrees a reduction in the 300-foot buffer. Please see the conditions in the following section.)

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- All project mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented during construction activities and use of the proposed yard spaces. 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 Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- The temporary road covered by this request shall be completely restored following the shoo-fly work.
- If breeding birds with active nests are found, a biological monitor shall establish a 300-foot buffer around the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails. The 300-foot buffer may be adjusted to reflect existing conditions including ambient noise and disturbance only with the approval of the CDFG and/or USFWS (Please note that the CPUC must be notified prior to the onset of construction). The biological monitor shall conduct regular monitoring of the nest to determine success/failure and to ensure that project activities are not conducted within the buffer until the nesting cycle is complete or the nest fails. If nesting birds move into the work area SCE will monitor the nest to ensure that their activities do not result in the loss or failure of the nest. A preliminary 300-foot buffer area around the nest will be established and SCE shall coordinate with the CPUC, CDFG and/or USFWS.
- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including crane, haul truck and concrete truck drivers shall be appropriately WEAP trained on environmental issues including protocols for air quality, hazardous materials, biological resources, known and unanticipated cultural materials, as well as SWPPP BMPs. A log shall be maintained on-site with the names of all crew personnel trained.
- All road boundaries shall be flagged prior to construction. No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen