

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

June 3, 2009

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

RE: SCE Antelope Transmission Project (Antelope-Vincent 500 kV Transmission Line), Notice to Proceed (NTP # 22)

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Southern Californian Edison (SCE) has requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to construct a 12 kV distribution line to the Antelope Transmission Project 500/220 kV Windhub Substation, Segment 3.

The SCE Antelope 500 kV Transmission Project (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.04-12-008, SCH #2006041160 on March 15, 2007. **NTP # 22 is granted by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- As proposed by SCE, an approximate 7,500-foot extension of an existing 12-kV distribution line is required to provide power to the Windhub Substation located in Kern County. The power provided by this line is required during construction of the substation, once grading has been completed and the site is ready for installation of equipment and structures; for installation of the 220-kV switchyards; for the substation's control buildings; and will provide the primary source of auxiliary power for the substation's facilities during operations. The new 12 kV distribution line would begin approximately 800 feet north of the intersection of 70th Street West and Oak Creek Road. The line would travel south along the east side of 70th Street West to Oak Creek Road, where it would then proceed in an westerly direction along the north side of Oak Creek Road to the Windhub Substation.
- NTP #19 for the Antelope Transmission Project (Antelope-Vincent 500 kV Transmission Line), 500/220 kV Windhub Substation was issued by CPUC on December 1, 2008, which specified that a separate NTP would be required for the 12 kV distribution line since it was not defined at the time the project Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared. A Supplemental Evaluation addressing the 12 kV distribution line was approved by CPUC on March 16, 2009; the Supplemental Evaluation concluded that the proposed 12 kV distribution line would not change the conclusions in the Final EIR.

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

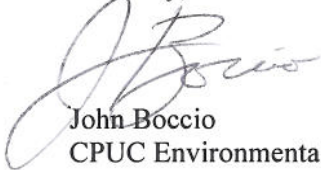
- Construction of the new 12 kV distribution line shall be done in accordance with approved project mitigation measures and conditions.

- As identified in the Biology Mitigation Measures and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) in the EIR/EIS, SCE would assign Biological Monitors to the Project. They would be responsible for ensuring that impacts to special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, or unique resources would be minimized to the fullest extent possible. The Biological Monitor shall be on-site to monitor all work and will conduct sweeps of the approved areas, especially areas with high burrow concentrations which will be impacted. Monitors would flag the boundaries of areas where activities need to be restricted in order to protect wildlife including special-status species. These restricted areas would be monitored to ensure their protection during construction. This will include protecting species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CDFG codes regarding the protection of nests and eggs. 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 with the approval of the CDFG and USFWS (as well as CPUC notification). 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.
- Biological survey sweeps shall be conducted and results submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to equipment and vehicles mobilizing into an area. After complete surveys have been submitted and approved by the CPUC, site occupation can occur; however, if occupation does not occur within seven calendar days of survey submittals, biological clearance sweeps shall be re-conducted prior to site occupation, including nesting bird surveys during the breeding season.
- As proposed, the drainage crossing Oak Creek Road shall be avoided
- Per Mitigation Measure B-4a, SCE shall photo document the number of Joshua and juniper trees removed during project construction and provide a letter report to the CPUC and CDFG at the conclusion of construction
- Per Mitigation Measure B-4b, CDFG and CPUC shall field verify temporary and permanent impacts to Joshua tree woodland and Juniper woodland habitat. SCE shall coordinate with CDFG and CPUC to acquire and ensure permanent protection of mitigation lands.
- Desert tortoise mitigation shall be implemented in accordance with approved CDFG and USFWS protocols for Segment 3A and Windhub Substation.
- If special-status plant or animal species are observed within the project area, the CPUC EM and CDFG shall be notified immediately.
- Full-time archaeological monitoring shall be required during subsurface excavations. Unanticipated discoveries shall be treated in accordance with approved plans.
- Per Mitigation Measure G-8, a certified paleontological monitor will monitor compliance at construction areas where excavation is being conducted in geologic units of moderate to high sensitivity. Areas of low sensitivity will be spot-checked periodically. Paleontological monitoring reports will be submitted to the CPUC for review on a monthly basis.
- 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 Notice to Proceed shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including 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 work boundaries shall be flagged prior to occupation. As proposed, all vehicles will be restricted to the existing dirt road (70th Street) and Oak Creek Road.
- 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.
- All fueling for equipment shall be conducted in approved refueling locations.
- If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- In the case of a hazardous materials spill, the CPUC EMs shall be immediately notified and an incident report shall be submitted to the CPUC within five (5) working days of the spill incident and shall include spill volumes and any resource damage that may have occurred.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen