

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 11, 2012

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, GO1
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: SCE Antelope Transmission Project (Antelope-Tehachapi 500kV and 220kV Transmission Line), Segment 3B: Final Engineering Concurrence for Segment 3B Telecom – Monolith Substation

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On June 22, 2012, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Final Engineering Concurrence for the installation of a new microwave dish and tower at Monolith Substation in lieu of the Oak Peak communication site for a telecommunication path on Segment 3B Transmission Line (T/L) of the Antelope Transmission Project (ATP) in unincorporated Kern County, California. **This Concurrence to Final Engineering is approved by the CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests Final Engineering Concurrence for the installation of a new microwave dish and tower at Monolith Substation in lieu of the Oak Peak communication site for a telecommunication path on Segment 3B T/L of the ATP in unincorporated Kern County, California. During the initial phase of this project in 2008, SCE Telecommunications commissioned a path survey between the Oak Peak communication site and the proposed Highwind Substation. The survey results indicated that this path was viable and acceptable. Subsequent to approval of the NTPR (NTP #32 dated March 20, 2012) by the CPUC, a new survey was conducted that determined that the telecommunication path between Highwind Substation and Windhub Substation is now blocked by a wind turbine installed by a Third Party.

SCE is proposing to install a new microwave dish and tower at Monolith Substation in lieu of the Oak Peak location that is blocked. This will be used to complete the path to Windhub Substation, therefore fulfilling the Protective Relay requirements for this project. All required work at Monolith Substation will take place within the existing Substation fence line and on an existing microwave foundation. No ground disturbance will occur.

- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a biological review dated June 18, 2012 titled *Request for Final Engineering Concurrence for Segment 3B Telecom Proposed New Microwave Dish and Tower at Monolith Substation Biological Review*. The biological review documents the biological conditions at the proposed new microwave dish and tower at the SCE Monolith Substation for Segment 3B Telecommunications (Project Component). The Project Component plus a 500-foot buffer is referred to as the Biological Study Area (BSA). The biological resources within the BSA were evaluated during periodic nesting bird surveys of the existing microwave tower. The area was also surveyed for vegetation community mapping for this biological review. Inaccessible survey areas occur around the Monolith Substation and include private grazing land, private industry land, and a concrete factory. However, all work will occur within the existing, disturbed substation and no ground disturbance will occur. Access to the site will be along existing access roads (Tehachapi Boulevard and Williamson Road). Nesting bird surveys were conducted on February 24

and 29; March 10, 16, 22, and 30; April 10, 12, 19, and 25; May 15 and 22; June 13, and 15, 2012. Vegetation mapping for the biological review was conducted on May 22, 2012. Vegetation communities within the Project Component include disturbed/developed. Vegetation communities within the 500-foot buffer include rabbitbrush scrub, California annual grassland, and disturbed/developed. No special-status wildlife species were detected within the Project Component. As of June 14, 2012, one inactive common raven nest was located within the existing microwave tower that is to be replaced. No jurisdictional features are located within the Project Component as the area is located within the existing disturbed Monolith Substation.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

- **Cultural Resources:** SCE submitted a memorandum titled *Southern California Edison Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Cultural and Paleontological Resources Clearance for Segment 3B – Request for Final Engineering Concurrence for Installation of a Microwave Dish and Tower at Monolith Substation* dated June 18, 2012. The memorandum states that no known cultural or paleontological resources will be impacted by this request in support of the TRTP on Segment 3B during installation of a microwave dish and tower at Monolith Substation. A cultural record search was conducted in support of SCE's Archaeological Survey Report, East Kern Wind Renewables System Reconfiguration (EKWRA) project. No cultural resources were found during the records search in support of the EKWRA project. The Monolith Substation was in service in 1950 and it is not considered a historical resource as construction of substations became the standard after World War II. In addition, the proposed work involves overhead work only and therefore potential for discovering buried resources does not exist.

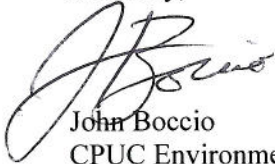
A paleontological literature review was not conducted because no ground disturbance will occur as a result of this request (the proposed work involves overhead work only).

No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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

- All conditions required by NTP #32 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #32, and this Concurrence of Final Engineering shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen