

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

February 6, 2009

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

RE: SCE Antelope Transmission Project, Segment 2 – Variance Request #30

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On February 2, 2009, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting to construct a double circuit, dead-end lattice tower (DHA), New Construction No. 115 on Segment 2 of the Antelope Transmission Project in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

The existing Midway-Vincent #3 structure 114 has insufficient structural capacity to handle routing of the line around Vincent Substation which is necessary for the project. The to-be-constructed Segment 2 line will be dead-ended in the West position of this tower and will be temporarily renamed Midway-Vincent No. 3 500 kV line until cutovers at other points in this Segment have been completed. The New Const. No. 115 will allow the old Midway-Vincent #3 line to stay in its same position, therefore eliminating the cutover work that would be required at existing Const. No. 115 for the TRTP Segment 2. New Const. No. 115 is located on the north side of the Vincent Substation.

The existing tower structure, also known as Const. No. 115, and the existing conductor wires will remain in place and the existing East circuit will be temporarily renamed as the Antelope-Vincent Segment 2 line energized at 220 kV. The East Circuit position will be tapped and will be utilized for the temporary Vincent 220 kV Shoofly (VSF) structure No.'s VSF 1 – 5.

- New Construct No. 115 is located in the southern portion of Segment 2, just north of the Vincent Substation near the unincorporated town of Acton in the Soledad Pass area, Los Angeles County, California.
- **Biological Resources:** A biological field survey was conducted at the Construct 115 site near the Vincent Substation on 27 January 2009. This survey focused on biological issues as described in the mitigation measures of the Final EIR (Aspen 2006). The survey represented a focused survey for burrowing owls, American badger, nesting birds, and small mammal burrow concentrations. In addition, an approximately 500-foot buffer from the limits of the proposed activity area was surveyed, except to the south where surveys were conducted to the fence line for the Vincent Substation. No target special interest plant or wildlife species were observed during the 27 January 2009 survey. A drainage feature is located south of the Construct 115 site, between the site and toe of slope for the Vincent Substation pad. As proposed, no disturbance will occur to this drainage. No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of the conditions noted below.

- **Cultural & Paleontological Resources:** A search for archeological and historic records for Segment 2 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project was conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (Ahmet et al. 2006). ECORP consulted the South Central Coastal Information Center, the Angeles National Forest Heritage Resources Section, the National Register of Historic Places, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Points of Historical Interest and the California Historical Landmarks. The proposed project area falls within the one-mile search radius and no cultural resources are known. The Paleontological Resources Management Plan Segments 2 and 3 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project was prepared by Cogstone Resource Management Inc. (Gust and Scott 2008). No paleontological localities have been previously discovered in the project vicinity and the sediments (Quaternary alluvium) are low in sensitivity for paleontological resources (Figure 6d in Gust and Scott 2008).

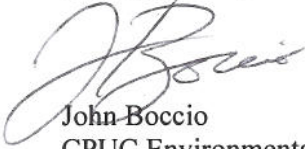
Cogstone Resource Management conducted a survey of the New Construction No. 115 area on January 24, 2009. The survey consisted of crew walking the project area while closely inspecting the ground surface. There was no indication of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources or paleontological resources in the vicinity of New Construction No. 115. No significant impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated if Unanticipated Discovery protocols are implemented in the event of a find.

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

- 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.
- The drainage south of the New Construction No. 115 shall be flagged and protected from materials and/or stormwater runoff from the construction area entering the drainage.
- If unanticipated cultural discoveries occur, work must halt in the immediate vicinity until the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist to determine if it meets significance criteria under CEQA.
- Per Mitigation Measure H-4, if it is determined that known groundwater resources would be unavoidable during construction, SCE will submit a Groundwater Remediation Plan to the CPUC and RWQCB for review and approval prior to the onset of any construction activities. If unknown groundwater resources are encountered, SCE will stop the disruptive excavation activity and submit a site-specific remediation plan to the CPUC and RWQCB for review and approval. Water may not be discharged on site, but may be held in a Baker Tank until the Plan is approved.
- All project mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented during construction activities. Some measures are on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- 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. In addition, all approved access roads, spur roads and overland travel routes to be used shall be flagged prior to construction.
- If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, the jurisdictional agencies and CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, 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