STATE OF CALIFORNIA ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

November 9, 2009

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

RE: SCE Antelope Transmission Project, Segment 2 – Modification to Variance Request #56

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On November 6, 2009, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a request to modify Variance #56 to extend the timeframes for the temporary relocation of the Bootlegger 12 kV distribution line bypass and the use of an existing maintenance road to accommodate future anticipated work in the same location, Vincent Substation, Segment 2, Antelope Transmission Project, Los Angeles County, California. **This Variance Modification is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

  Variance Request #56 was approved by the CPUC on September 11, 2009 granting permission to SCE to perform a temporary relocation of the 12 kV distribution line, named Bootlegger, at the Vincent Substation, to an underground position. The approval stipulated that after the contractor finished installing and removing the 500 kV slack spans, the contractor would return the 12 kV line to its original overhead position and remove the underground bypass. Additionally, a Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) was approved on September 9, 2009 by the CPUC's Environmental Monitor to allow the temporary use of an existing maintenance road in order to facilitate access to the 12 kV line for these modifications. SCE is requesting that the time for removal of the bypass and use of the road be extended to accommodate future anticipated work in the same location.

  Future construction activities related to the TRTP Segments 4-11 that is pending approval will fall within the vicinity of the Bootlegger 12 kV distribution line. To accommodate some of the work near the Vincent Substation, it will be necessary to de-energize or relocate the Bootlegger 12 kV line again. For this reason, SCE is requesting that the underground bypass remain in place until construction activities involved with the TRTP 4-11 project at this location have been completed. At that time the underground bypass will be removed. The 12 kV line will be re-routed through the underground bypass only when construction activities require such action. The existing overhead 12 kV line will remain in place and continue to be used on a regular basis. Leaving the underground bypass in place will result in fewer ground disturbing activities and save the cost of removal and reinstallation at a later date.

  Additionally, the approved TEWS request, which grants permission to the contractor to use the existing maintenance road, will expire on November 10, 2009. In order to maintain access to the underground bypass, SCE is requesting that this modification request to Variance #56 also include the use of the maintenance road until the construction activities involved with the TRTP 4-11 projects have been completed and the underground bypass has been removed.

- **Biological Resources:** Burns & McDonnell submitted a report dated September 9, 2009 for the *Biological Clearance Survey of the Disturbance Area for the Temporary Relocation of the Bootlegger 12 kV Circuit north of Vincent Substation*. On September 9, 2009, biological surveys were performed on the disturbance areas for the temporary relocation of the Bootlegger 12 kV circuit just north of the Vincent Substation. The mapped disturbance area for the relocation trenching along with a 500-foot buffer were surveyed for biological resources. In addition, all scrub oaks, juniper trees, and Joshua trees within the disturbance areas and a surrounding 15-foot buffer were counted for later mitigation as required by the EIR. Biologists conducted the survey by walking meandering transects spaced 20-25 feet apart out to a distance of 500 feet on all sides to cover the buffer area (with the exception of the developed area within the substation boundaries). The survey found one California juniper and one woodrat midden (San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), a California Species of Special Concern (CSC) or big-eared woodrat (*N. macrotis*)) within the disturbance area. Within the 500-foot buffer survey area, six woodrat middens were found along with one inactive cactus wren nest (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) in a cholla cactus (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*). There were scattered rodent burrows, but no concentrations of burrows, and no burrows that might have been used by burrowing owls or larger mammals. No other sensitive resources were found.

  An ephemeral drainage is located along the north side of the disturbance area, between the 12 kV Bootlegger line and the adjacent disturbance areas for Construct 115 and Vincent Shoofly 1. Additionally, the drainage crosses under the existing maintenance road through a culvert. The drainage was flagged for avoidance in a continuous line along both sides to prevent foot traffic, and was not impacted during construction of the bypass.

  No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of the conditions noted below.

- **Cultural & Paleontological Resources**:
  The proposed disturbance area for the 12 kV relocation at the Vincent Substation was investigated for archaeological and paleontological resources by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (Ahmet, Mason, and Bholat 2006), Pacific Legacy Inc. (Way, Jackson and Holm 2008) and Cogstone Resources Management (Scott and Gust 2008). No archaeological or historical resources were identified. The proposed disturbance area is located within Quaternary Older Alluvium, sediment known to contain paleontological resources. As a result of paleontological sensitivity, the presence of a paleontology monitor is required during earth moving activities. Earth moving activities include grading, trenching, and drilling.

  No significant impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated with the implementation of the conditions noted below.

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.

- SCE has assigned Biological Monitors to the Project. They are responsible for ensuring that impacts to special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, or unique resources are minimized to the fullest extent possible. The Biological Monitor shall be on-site to monitor all work and shall conduct

sweeps of the approved areas which will be impacted. 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.

- The woodrat midden(s) will be flagged for avoidance, if feasible. If avoidance of the woodrat midden is not feasible, it can be raked out by the monitoring biologist to minimize impacts to woodrats, following consultation with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

- Per Mitigation Measures B-4b and B-13d, CDFG and CPUC shall field verify temporary and permanent impacts to Juniper woodland habitat. SCE shall coordinate with CDFG and CPUC to acquire and ensure permanent protection of mitigation lands.

- If special-status plant or animal species are observed within the project area, the CPUC EM and CDFG shall be notified immediately.

- Due to paleontological sensitivity in this area, the presence of a paleontology monitor is required during earth moving activities. Earth moving activities include grading, trenching, and drilling.

- 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. Also, the CPUC EM shall be immediately notified of any unanticipated cultural discovery.

- 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. In addition, all disturbed areas shall be restored in accordance with approved restoration plans and permit conditions.

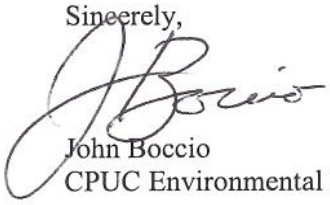
- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including haul truck and concrete truck drivers shall be appropriately WEAP trained on environmental issues including protocols for air quality, hazardous materials, biological resources, known and unanticipated cultural materials, 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 modification to the Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable, including the variance request and maps.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen