

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 6**

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August 3, 2009

2135-IGR/CEQA
6-TUL-GEN
DRAFT EIR
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
SAN JOAQUIN CROSS VALLEY
LOOP TRANSMISSION LINE
SCH #2008081090

Mr. Jensen Uchida
San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Mr. Uchida:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Line Project and the 3 Alternative routes (Alt #2, #3 & #6) submitted by Southern California Edison (SCE). The project involves the replacement of two sets of single circuit 220 kV line with a double transmission line within existing SCE ROW and the construction of a double circuit line that would loop the existing Big Creek 3-Springville 220 kV transmission line into the Rector Substation via one of 4 proposed transmission line routes. The proposed project route is located in Tulare County including portions of the City of Visalia, Farmersville, Woodlake and the unincorporated areas of Tulare County. Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans has no preference on which transmission route is ultimately chosen. The DEIR identifies Alternative #2 as the environmentally superior alternative preferred over the proposed project route. All proposed transmission routes transverse the State High System (State Route 198, 216, 245) at various locations.

Caltrans does agree with the mitigation measures identified in the DEIR for the proposed project route, which would also reduce impacts to less than significant for any of the proposed alternatives. However, it is recommended that mitigation measure 4.14-1b be amended to add the requirement that an encroachment permit be approved by Caltrans as part of the Traffic Management Plan prior to commencement of any construction activities that affect a state route.

As noted in our prior comments, an encroachment permit must be obtained for all proposed activities for placement of encroachments within, under or over the State highway rights-of-way. Activity and work planned in the State right-of-way shall be performed to State standards and specifications, at no cost to the State. Engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports

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(documents) shall be stamped and signed by a licensed Engineer or Architect. Engineering documents for encroachment permit activity and work in the State right-of-way may be submitted using English Units. The Permit Department and the Environmental Planning Branch will review and approve the activity and work in the State right-of-way before an encroachment permit is issued. Encroachment permits will be issued in accordance with Streets and Highway Codes, Section 671.5, "Time Limitations."

Please send a response to our comments prior to staff's recommendations to the California Public Utilities Commission. If you have any other questions, please call me at (559) 488-7396.

Sincerely,

PAUL-ALBERT MARQUEZ
Central Planning Branch Chief

David Deel
Transportation Planner
District 6

c: Mr. Ted Smalley, Executive Director, Tulare County Association of Governments
SCH #2008081090