

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

August 23, 2012

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

Susan Nelson
Southern California Edison
Regulatory Affairs
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, G01
Rosemead, California 91770

Dear Ms. Nelson:

On July 30, 2012, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) submitted a Notice to Proceed Request (NTPR #3) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking the authority to proceed with construction of the Big Creek 1 - Rector and Big Creek 3 – Rector Rebuild (also known as the Big Creek Rebuild) portion of the San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project in Tulare County, California. The proposed construction in this segment of the project will consist of dismantling two parallel single circuit 220 kV (Big Creek 1 – Rector 220 kV and Big Creek 3 – Rector 220 kV) transmission line segments in order to consolidate them into on double circuit transmission line on the western half of the existing approximately 11 mile north-south right of way (ROW). Activities under this Notice to Proceed are divided into two sets of work, referred to as Work Packages 2a and 2b. Construction of Work Package 2a will include installation of new tubular steel (TSP) pole footings and lattice steel tower (LST) footings in the north-south ROW. Work Package 2b will include erection of new TSPs and LSTs and installation of conductor and optical ground wire (OPGW) associated with the Big Creek Rebuild line. Work Package 2b also includes removal of the existing towers and associated conductor and OPGW in the north-south ROW.

A Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2008081090) for the project was published in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act by the CPUC in February 2010. On July 29, 2010, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was issued to SCE by the CPUC under Decision 10-07-043.

SCE is authorized to proceed with the proposed undertaking, provided that all components of the Big Creek Rebuild portion of the approved project are carried out in accordance with the methods and conditions described in NTPR #3, and subject to completion of the following implementing actions by SCE prior to the start of construction:

Mitigation Measure/Applicant Proposed Measure	Approval Condition <i>(excerpt from SCE Justification/Implementing Actions; text in [brackets] added by CPUC staff for clarity)</i>
APM-BIO-01	A valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) Restoration and Mitigation Plan will be developed for the elderberry removal within the St. John's River prior to the elderberry removal. This Plan will be submitted to the CPUC prior to tower and footing removal within the St. John's River.
MM 4.4-2b	
MM 4.4-3a	Preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to commencement of construction activities associated with this NTP Request to ensure that there are no impacts to Swainson's hawk or golden eagle as a result of these activities.
MM 4.4-4	SCE shall conduct preconstruction nesting bird surveys in compliance with this measure.
	SCE is currently developing a nesting bird management plan in consultation with CDFG that will set forth predefined buffers for various nesting birds. This plan will set forth protocols for when consultation is required for buffer reduction and when SCE can reduce buffers in consultation with an avian specialist. SCE will provide this plan to the CPUC when finalized.
MM 4.4-5	SCE will conduct preconstruction [burrowing owl] surveys in compliance with this measure.
MM 4.4-6	While San Joaquin kit fox is not anticipated to occur in the area of the Big Creek Rebuild, preconstruction surveys will be conducted 14 to 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities to ensure that no San Joaquin kit fox is present on site. Results of these surveys will be provided to the CPUC for review.
MM 4.4-7	Tower design and location of bird diverters will be provided to the CPUC prior to erecting any new structures.
MM 4.4-9a	SCE is currently seeking water permits to impact these [St. John's River and Mill Creek] features. No impact to these features will occur prior to receipt of all applicable [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)] water permits.
MM 4.4-9b	A Wetland and Riparian Restoration and Mitigation Plan will be developed and submitted to the CPUC prior to construction within jurisdictional waterways. Copies of all [USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, and CDFG] permits will be provided to the CPUC prior to impacting any jurisdictional waters.
MM 4.4-ALT2-2	A Wetland and Riparian Restoration and Mitigation Plan will be developed and submitted to the CPUC prior to construction within riparian vegetation. Copies of all [USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, and CDFG] permits will be provided to the CPUC prior to impacting riparian habitat.
MM 4.7-1c	[Copies of the contractor Health and Safety Plans will be submitted to the CPUC for review prior to construction.]
MM 4.7-1e	No new structures will be erected until after this meeting [for local aerial applicators on August 28] occurs and SCE has submitted proof of compliance with this measure.
MM 4.10-4a	All residences within 300 feet of the alignment will be sent notices describing the proposed construction activities. Proof of noticing will be sent to the CPUC prior to construction activities.
MM 4.12-2	SCE will provide information on this consultation [with Caltrans and the County] to the CPUC prior to implementing any lane closures.

Mitigation Measure/Applicant Proposed Measure	Approval Condition (<i>excerpt from SCE Justification/Implementing Actions; text in [brackets] added by CPUC staff for clarity</i>)
MM 4.14-1a	SCE does not anticipate impacting any private road crossings during construction activities proposed in this NTP Request. However, should any private road crossings be impacted, SCE shall submit evidence of private property coordination to the CPUC prior to commencement of construction activities.

Sincerely,



Jensen Uchida
CPUC Project Manager

CC. Matt Fagundes, ESA
Michael Manka, ESA