

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

September 16, 2008

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

RE: SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1 – Variance Request #13

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On September 16, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted Variance Request #13 requesting a turnaround area on the Harris Property, near Construct Tower 28 in upper Haskell Canyon in Segment 1, Section 1. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE's subcontractor has requested additional space near Construct Tower 28 in order to accommodate a turnaround area of approximately 155 feet by 45 feet. The turnaround area is necessary to safely allow ingress and egress of concrete trucks and other large construction vehicles. The turnaround area is located down slope from the Construct Tower 28 site.
- A biological field survey was conducted at the Harris Property turnaround site near Construct Tower 28 in upper Haskell Canyon on August 26, 2008 by a Burns & McDonnell biologist. This site has also been covered during previous baseline biological surveys conducted in October and December 2007. These surveys focused on biological issues as described in the mitigation measures of the Final EIR/EIS (Aspen 2006). No target special interest plant or wildlife species were observed during the August 26, 2008 survey or during previous biological surveys. No active bird nests are present in the area at this time.

According to the Burns & McDonnell biological report dated September 11, 2008, the area immediately surrounding the Haskell Canyon Line Crossing site is characterized by non-native grassland vegetation on sloping terrain with scattered chaparral and coastal sage scrub plants. The site is dominated by non-native grasses including soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), riggut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *Rubens*). Also present are California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tocalote or yellow star thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*), and chaparral mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*). Temporary use of the turnaround area on the Harris property in upper Haskell Canyon will impact approximately 0.16 acre of non-native grassland/chaparral-coastal sage scrub vegetation. No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of the conditions noted below.

- In an email dated September 15, 2008, Adam Sriro, SCE Archaeologist, stated that "Based on the records search and field survey conducted by Pacific Legacy on April 29, 2008, no historic properties or historical resources will be affected/impacted by the proposed variance for a turn around at Tower 28 (Way 2008). This particular survey was conducted at the same time as the 66kV removal survey for Segment 1, Section 1. As a result, no further archaeological study is required at this time". No significant impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

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

- 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.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
- 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.
- After use, all areas proposed under this Variance shall be completely restored to preexisting conditions following the construction activities.
- Prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel including crane, 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 construction. No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen