

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

January 22, 2009

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

RE: SCE Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1, and SCE Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2 and 3 – Variance Request #26

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On January 20, 2009, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted Variance Request #26 for a permanent lift structure, M88-T1A, on the southwest side of the Antelope Substation. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- The lift structure, M88-T1A, will allow for proper clearances and tie-in of Segments 1, 2, and 3. The structure will also accommodate the design for future Segments 4-11 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, in Los Angeles and Kern Counties.
- The structure will be a heavy-lift, dead-end structure, and will be 188 feet tall.
- The tower is located on the southwest side of the Antelope Substation within the survey corridor of Segment 2 and has a footprint of 2,600 square feet. Foundation installations for M88-T1A have already occurred. Results of pre-construction biological and cultural surveys have been previously submitted. The area has been previously disturbed and no biological or cultural resources were noted.
- An expanded work area for M88-T1A has been approved under a Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) request.

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.
- 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.
- Copies of all relevant permits and compliance plans, including this Variance approval, shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen