

Billie Blanchard
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California Public Utilities Commission
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MORONGO
BAND OF
MISSION
INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION

Via U.S. Mail and e-mail (billie.blanchard@cpuc.ca.gov)

Re: SCE West of Devers Upgrade Project – SCE Application No. A.13.10-020

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The Morongo Tribal Council is the elected governing body of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, which in turn is the beneficial owner of the unallotted tribal trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation. The Tribal Council is in receipt of your May 6, 2014 letter seeking the Morongo Band's positions on three issues relevant to the CPUC's assessment of the potential impacts of the portion of the Southern California Edison Company's ("SCE") proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project ("WODUP") that traverses the lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation. The Tribal Council's interpretation of those issues, and the Morongo Band's responses thereto, are set forth below.

Issue #1: Having agreed with SCE on a preferred route through the lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation, would the Morongo Band prefer that the CPUC and BLM eliminate all other route options across tribal land from full consideration in the EIR/EIS, or would the Morongo Band prefer that the EIR/EIS also evaluate alternative routes through tribal land?

Response: The General Membership of the Morongo Band has approved SCE's proposed route through the Morongo Reservation. That is the only route through the Morongo Reservation that is available to SCE, unless the Morongo Band's General Membership were to approve a different route. Therefore, no other routes through the Morongo Reservation need be evaluated.

Issue #2: Is the Morongo Band aware that the FAA will require marker balls and tower lighting for a portion of the Morongo Band's designated route through the Morongo Reservation?


Response: Yes.

Issue #3: Has the Morongo Band requested that SCE use tubular steel poles ("TSP") for a segment of the western portion of the proposed WODUP route through the Reservation, and would the Morongo Band like steel lattice towers to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS as an alternative tower design?

Response: The Morongo Band has required that SCE use TSPs for a segment of the western portion of the proposed WODUP route through the Reservation, and SCE has agreed to do so, subject to engineering constraint that would preclude the use of such poles. Therefore, the Morongo Band does not see a need to include an evaluation of steel lattice towers in the EIR/EIS.

We look forward to the CPUC's prompt completion of the environmental review of this important project. Please do not hesitate to request additional information germane to that review.

Very Truly Yours,


Robert Martin, Chairman