

State of California-Business and Transportation Agency
Department of Transportation
District 7, 120 So. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606
TDD (213) 897-6610

September 8, 1997

IGR/CEQA/MND/#970907/CP
Mitigated Neg. Dec. & Initial Study
So. California Edison Co. Application No. 96-11-046
Proposal for Divestiture
LA-01-VAR
SCH#97081067

Mr. Bruce Kaneshiro
C/O ESA
California Public Utilities Commission
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Mr. Kaneshiro:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the project referenced above. The project consists of the proposed sale of 12 electric generation facilities. These facilities are currently under single ownership and would be offered for sale at auction.

[\[Begin DOT-1\]](#)

Based on the information received we have no comment at this time. However, we do believe that new projects resulting from the sale of these assets should be submitted for environmental review.

[\[End DOT-1\]](#)

If you have any questions regarding this response please reference IGR/CEQA #970907, and call me at (213) 897-4429 or Cheryl Powell IGR/CEQA Coordinator for the project at (213) 897-3747.

Sincerely,

/s/

STEPHEN J. BUSWELL
IGR/CEQA Program Manager
Transportation Planning Office

Chris Belsky
State Clearinghouse

DOT - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT-1.

With regard to the commentor's concern about environmental review of future projects resulting from the sale of Edison power plants, the Initial Study assessed only the impacts of the proposed divestiture. As noted on page 3.2 of the Initial Study, if an Edison power plant is purchased, the new owner may determine that modifications to the plant are needed. However, the same would be true of Edison if it were to continue ownership of the facility, as discussed thoroughly in section 3.2 of Attachment C to the Initial Study. If either a new owner or Edison decided to modify the plant, it would have to comply with applicable regulations, including environmental review. Based upon the type of modifications requested, either a local agency or the California Energy Commission (CEC) would be the CEQA Lead Agency. In any event, any changes proposed in operations, retrofitting, etc. would be evaluated at the time an application for such changes were presented for consideration by the owner of the plant. Therefore, the Department of Transportation and other interested parties would have the opportunity to evaluate impacts to land use and other environmental effects at that time.