

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 7, 2012

Nichole Yeto
Mascot Substation Environmental Coordinator
Southern California Edison Company
1218 South Fifth Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016

RE: Mascot Substation Project – Notice to Proceed (NTP)

Dear Ms. Yeto,

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to commence construction of the Mascot Substation Project, which includes:

- A new 66/12 kilovolt (kV) distribution substation on an approximately five-acre site (Mascot Substation);
- Three new 66 kV subtransmission line segments to serve the new Mascot Substation. More specifically, the Goshen-Hanford 66 kV subtransmission line, approximately 2 miles away, would be tapped and connected to the Mascot Substation with a new single-circuit 66 kV subtransmission line segment;
- Four new 12 kV distribution getaways; and
- Facilities to connect the new substation to SCE's telecommunication system.

The Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Permit to Construct was granted by the CPUC on December 16, 2010 (Decision 10-12-039). However, as part of its NTP request, SCE has requested a change to the Project, which includes a variation to the proposed overhead telecommunication line route as depicted in the Figure 2, *Final Telecommunications Route*, of the SCE's NTP request. The telecommunication line would be constructed as described in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that was prepared for the Project (i.e., the line will be strung on existing subtransmission and distribution poles and associated activities would involve no new ground disturbance) and construction and operation of the line would not result in any new impacts beyond those already disclosed in the IS/MND. Therefore, the CPUC approves the change to the overhead telecommunication line route as requested.

The NTP request also includes documentation from a Registered Professional Engineer to support the view that a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (i.e., implementation of IS/MND Applicant Proposed Measure (APM) HYD-2) in accordance with 40 CFR Part 112.1 through Part 112.7 is not applicable to the Project. The determination is based on the gallon volume of oil in the Project transformers, the geography and location of the facility site, including proximity to navigable waters, land contour, and drainage, and excludes considerations of manmade features such as dikes, equipment, or other structures that could serve to restrain, hinder, contain, or otherwise prevent a discharge of oil from reaching navigable waters. Therefore, the CPUC approves SCE's request to waive implementation of APM HYD-2.

In addition, the NTP request includes a proposed modification to Mitigation Measure 3.4-2 related to the Swainson's Hawk surveys. SCE is requesting approval to begin construction prior to completion of the full survey protocol. Prior to completion of the protocol, any trees that have a potential to support Swainson's Hawk will be checked daily for nests by the SCE biological monitor when construction activities are taking place within a half a mile. If any potential Swainson's hawk nests are observed during these daily sweeps, construction activities within half a mile of the nest would cease until the nest was evaluated by a Swainson's Hawk specialist. If determined to be a Swainson's Hawk nest, construction activities would remain on hold pending further consultation with CDFG. SCE discussed this approach with CDFG who did not express any concerns with construction work starting as long as the protocol surveys continue until April 20th. Therefore, the CPUC approves the change to Mitigation Measure 3.4-2 relative to the Swainson's Hawk surveys as requested.

The CPUC grants this NTP, including the requested changes to the telecommunications route, APM HYD-2, and Mitigation Measure 3.4-2, for the proposed construction activities (listed above) to begin the first week of March 2012, based on the following factors:

- SCE will implement all applicable Project applicant proposed measures, mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions during construction activities. Some measures are on-going and/or have time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction as applicable.
- Copies of all permits, compliance plans (i.e., MMRCPP, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, etc.), and this NTP shall be maintained onsite for the duration of the construction activities.
- Prior to commencing construction activities, SCE shall submit a report documenting the performance and results of pre-construction surveys for San Joaquin kit fox and western burrowing owl. SCE will perform additional pre-construction surveys, as necessary, in accordance with applicable mitigation measures.

- SCE will implement the MMRCPP to ensure implementation of all APMs and mitigation measures as well as compliance with all applicable laws, orders, and regulations. A copy of the MMRCPP will be kept at the construction site.
- SCE will conduct environmental training for all first-time visitors/laborers to the site. Training logs will be maintained onsite for the duration of construction activities.
- SCE will utilize at least one biologist as its full-time Environmental Compliance Inspector for the duration of the Project.
- No movement or staging of construction materials or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved workspace areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes to construction technique or mitigation implementation are required, a variance request or change of project request shall be submitted to the CPUC for review.
- If take of a special status species or if construction debris and/or spills enter into an environmentally sensitive area, the jurisdictional agency and the CPUC shall be notified immediately.
- SCE shall submit a copy of its construction contract's safety plan prior to the commencement of construction activities.
- SCE shall submit documentation that the County has reviewed and approved a nighttime noise reduction plan pursuant to Mitigation Measure 3.11-2 related to the night work proposed at the Highway 198 crossing and along Hanford Armona Road.
- SCE shall conduct Swainson's Hawk protocol surveys through April 20th.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosauer
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: Kim Koeppen, SCE
Ryan Stevenson, SCE
Michael Manka, ESA
Matt Fagundes, ESA