

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN )	Application No. 08-01-___
CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY (U 338-E) )	(Filed January 31, 2008)
for a Permit to Construct Electrical Facilities )	
With Voltages Between 50 kV and 200 kV: )	
Devers-Mirage 115 Kilovolt Subtransmission )	
System Split Project )	
_____ )	

**APPLICATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY (U 338-E) FOR A  
PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRICAL FACILITIES WITH VOLTAGES  
BETWEEN 50 KV AND 200 KV: DEVERS-MIRAGE 115 KILOVOLT  
SUBTRANSMISSION SYSTEM SPLIT PROJECT**

STEPHEN E. PICKETT  
RICHARD TOM  
ANGELA WHATLEY

Attorneys for  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Post Office Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770  
Telephone: (626) 302-3618  
Facsimile: (626) 302-1926

Dated: January 31, 2008

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I.

**INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC), General Order 131D (GO 131D), Southern California Edison Company (SCE) respectfully submits this application (Application) for a permit to construct (PTC) authorizing SCE to construct the proposed project known as the Devers-Mirage 115 Kilovolt Subtransmission System Split Project (Project). The Project consists of (i) constructing two new 115 kilovolt (kV) subtransmission line segments; (ii) rearranging and modifying subtransmission line connections; (iii) replacing 220 kV and 115 kV circuit breakers; (iv) installing one 280 megavolt amperes (MVA) 220/115 kV transformer at Mirage Substation; (v) constructing other substation modifications at certain substations located in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including the Thousand Palms community (Electrical Needs Area); and (vi) looping the existing Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV transmission line into Mirage Substation.

## II.

### BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The existing Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System serves approximately 150,000 metered customers and is bounded to the north by SCE's service territory (Yucca Valley area), to the south by the San Bernardino National Forest (Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Agua Caliente Reservation land), to the west by SCE's service territory, and to the east by the Imperial Irrigation District's utility service territory. The Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System is composed of the Devers and Mirage 220/115 kV substations and connecting subtransmission and distribution facilities. The Devers and Mirage substations are connected to one another through SCE's 220 kV transmission network and are interconnected at the 115 kV subtransmission level by and through 10 existing 115 kV substations, which are Concho, Devers, Eisenhower, Farrell, Garnet, Indian Wells, Mirage, Santa Rosa, Tamarisk, and Thornhill substations.

The current 115 kV subtransmission line configuration within the Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System cannot reliably accommodate existing and projected peak customer demand because of thermal overload conditions on the existing Mirage-Concho leg of the Devers-Capwind-Concho-Mirage 115 kV subtransmission line<sup>1</sup> and Mirage-Tamarisk 115 kV subtransmission line. Additionally, as projected by 2009, the Devers 220 kV Transmission System would not be able to meet North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) reliability standards under N-2 conditions. As projected, under an N-2 condition, potential voltage collapse and post transient voltage violations in the Devers 220 kV Transmission System and at interconnected IID and MWD facilities would occur.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2008 this would become the Mirage-Concho and Devers-Capwind-Mirage 115 kV subtransmission lines.

Construction of the Project would ensure that safe and reliable electric service is available to meet customer electrical demand without overloading the existing electric facilities that supply the Electrical Needs Area by (i) relieving thermal overload conditions on the existing Mirage-Concho leg of the Devers-Capwind-Concho-Mirage 115 kV subtransmission line and the Mirage-Tamarisk 115 kV subtransmission line; (ii) improving electric system reliability and operational flexibility, as well as relieving electrical demand on the Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System; and (iii) providing voltage support to the 220 kV transmission system.

The Project has two components; (i) splitting the Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System into two systems, and (ii) looping the Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV transmission line into Mirage Substation. The first component of the Project, the system split, is necessary to relieve thermal overload conditions on the existing Mirage-Concho leg of the Devers-Capwind-Concho-Mirage 115 kV subtransmission line and the Mirage-Tamarisk 115 kV subtransmission line. These two 115 kV subtransmission lines are part of the Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System. In addition, the Project would improve electric system reliability and operational flexibility, as well as relieve electrical demand on the Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System, by splitting the existing Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System between the Devers and Mirage substations into two separate 115 kV subtransmission systems. This split would result in the proposed Devers 115 kV Subtransmission System and the proposed Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System. The second component of the Project, the Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV Loop-in, is necessary to provide voltage support to the 220 kV transmission system to avoid post transient (post-N-2) voltage drops of 10 percent or more of pre-disturbance values (pre-N-2) in the event a loss of more than one 220 kV transmission line serving the Mirage Substation occurs.

The Project is planned to be constructed from approximately April 2009 to May 2010. The construction would include the following elements:

Construction of the Project consists of the following elements:

- Replace approximately 5.3 miles of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new higher capacity double-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and

replace support structures within existing SCE rights-of-way and franchise locations between Farrell and Garnet substations in the City of Palm Springs.

- Construct a new 115 kilovolt subtransmission line from the Mirage Substation south to Interstate 10, adjacent to the east side of Tri-Palms Estates and within SCE's existing rights-of-way and public streets. This work would be accomplished by replacing portions of existing single-circuit 115 kV structures with double-circuit structures, installing new single-circuit structures, installing new, higher capacity conductor, and reconfiguring existing lines on the existing and new 115 kV structures.
- Loop the existing Devers-Coachella 220 kilovolt transmission line from an existing right-of-way for approximately 0.8-miles on double-circuit lattice towers to Mirage Substation (install eight lattice steel towers and remove four lattice steel towers). Install one new tubular steel pole near Mirage Substation.
- Install one new 280 megavolt amperes (MVA) 220/115 kV transformer, five new 220 kV circuit breakers, and five new 115 kV circuit breakers at SCE's existing Mirage Substation.
- Replace six existing 115 kV subtransmission line wood poles with four new wood poles and one new tubular steel pole in the vicinity of Date Palm Drive and Varner Road.
- Replace an existing single-circuit 115 kilovolt subtransmission line wood pole with a new double-circuit tubular steel pole located south of I-10, approximately 50 feet north of the existing wood pole at the intersection of Portola Avenue and Gerald Ford Drive in the city of Palm Desert.
- Replace four poles at the intersection of Bob Hope Drive and Dinah Shore Drive. One wood pole located at the southwest corner would be replaced with one light weight steel (LWS) pole (with a new pole switch) and one tubular steel pole (TSP). One LWS pole located at the northeast corner would be replaced with one TSP. One TSP at the northwest corner would be replaced with one LWS pole (with a new pole switch) and one TSP. One TSP at the southeast corner would be replaced with one LWS pole (with a new pole switch) and one TSP.

- Transfer existing fiber optic cable to the new support structures and install new fiber optic and digital telecommunications equipment as needed.
- Install additional equipment and relays at certain substations located within the Electrical Needs Area.

The Project scope includes looping the existing Devers-Coachella 220 kV transmission line from an existing right-of-way for approximately 0.8-miles on double-circuit lattice steel towers (LSTs) to Mirage Substation (install eight LSTs and remove four LSTs), and installing one new tubular steel pole near Mirage Substation. Although GO 131D Section III.A provides that no public utility shall begin construction of major transmission line facilities designed for operation at 200 kV or more without first obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience or Necessity (CPCN) from the CPUC, the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures and the minor relocation of existing power line facilities are exempt from the CPCN requirement. (GO 131D, Section III.A) Consequently, SCE submits this PTC Application to the Commission, pursuant to GO 131D, Section III.B, seeking authority to construct the Project in accordance with the conclusion of the PEA.

A Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) prepared for the Project is attached to this Application. The PEA will be referenced in this Application, where appropriate, as the source of the information required in an Application for a PTC<sup>2</sup> pursuant to GO 131D, Section IX.B. A complete project description is located in Section 2 of the PEA. A statement of purpose and need is located in Section 1 of the PEA.

SCE has consulted with applicable federal, state and local agencies that have responsibility for the environmental resources of concern. The Project includes Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) that would avoid and/or minimize potential environmental impacts

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<sup>2</sup> Other required information for a PTC application (e.g., Balance Sheet, Articles of Incorporation, etc.) is contained in this Application or its appendices.

arising from the Project. In addition, SCE has developed mitigation measures to reduce potential Project impacts to the greatest extent possible. These APMs and mitigation measures are discussed in Chapter 4 of the PEA.

Upon completion of its review of this Application and preparation of the initial study, SCE requests that the Commission issue and certify an appropriate environmental document and issue a PTC authorizing SCE to construct the Project set forth in this Application and the attached PEA within the timelines set forth in Section III.H. of this Application.

### III.

#### STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Applicant

The applicant is Southern California Edison Company, an electric public utility company organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. SCE's principal place of business is 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Post Office Box 800, Rosemead, California 91770.

Please address correspondence or communications in regard to this Application to:

Angela Whatley  
Attorney  
Southern California Edison Company  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Post Office Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770  
Phone: (626) 302-3618  
Fax: (626) 302-1926

With a copy to:

Case Administration  
Southern California Edison Company  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Post Office Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770  
Phone: (626) 302-3101  
Fax: (626) 302-3119

**B. Articles Of Incorporation**

A copy of SCE's Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended through June 1, 1993, and as presently in effect, certified by the California Secretary of State, was filed with the Commission on June 15, 1993, in connection with Application No. 93-06-022<sup>3</sup> and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Rule 2.2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

**C. Balance Sheet And Statement Of Income**

Appendix A to this Application contains copies of SCE's balance sheet as of September 30, 2007, and the statement of income for the period ending September 30, 2007. The balance sheet reflects SCE's utility plant at original cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Since 1954, pursuant to Commission Decision No. 49665 dated February 16, 1954, in Application No. 33952, as modified by Decision No. 91799 in 1980, SCE has utilized straight-line remaining life depreciation for computing depreciation expense for accounting and ratemaking purposes in connection with its operations.

Pursuant to Commission Decision No. 59926, dated April 12, 1960, SCE uses accelerated depreciation for income tax purposes and "flows through" reductions in income tax to customers within the Commission's jurisdiction for property placed in service prior to 1981. Pursuant to Decision No. 93848 in OII-24, SCE uses the Accelerated Cost Recovery System (ACRS) for federal income tax purposes and "normalizes" reductions in income tax to customers for property placed in service after 1980 in compliance with the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and also in compliance with the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Pursuant to Decision No. 88-01-061, dated January 28, 1988, SCE uses a gross of tax interest rate in calculating the AFUDC Rate, and income tax normalization to account for the increased income tax expense occasioned by the Tax

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<sup>3</sup> Application No. 93-06-022, filed June 15, 1993, regarding approval of a Self-Generation Deferral Agreement between Mobil Oil Corporation Torrance Refinery and Southern California Edison.

Reform Act of 1986 provisions requiring capitalization of interest during construction for income tax purposes.

**D. Description of Southern California Edison Company**

SCE is an investor-owned public utility engaged in the business of generating, transmitting, and distributing electric energy in portions of Central and Southern California. In addition to its properties in California, it owns, in some cases jointly with others, facilities in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico, its share of which produces power and energy for the use of its customers in California. In conducting such business, SCE operates an interconnected and integrated electric utility system.

**E. Service Territory**

SCE's service territory is located in fifteen counties in Central and Southern California, consisting of Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Tuolumne,<sup>4</sup> and Ventura Counties, and includes approximately 179 incorporated communities as well as outlying rural territories. A list of the counties and municipalities served by SCE is attached hereto as Appendix B. SCE also supplies electricity to certain customers for resale under tariffs filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**F. Location Of Items Required In A Permit To Construct Pursuant To GO 131D, Section IX.B**

Almost all of the information required to be included in a PTC application pursuant to GO 131D, Section IX.B is found in the PEA.

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<sup>4</sup> SCE provides electric service to a small number of customer accounts in Tuolumne County and is not subject to franchise requirements.

Required PTC application information has been cross-referenced to the PEA in the following text. The PTC application requirements of GO 131D, Section IX.B are in italics, and the PEA references follow in plain text.

- a. *A description of the proposed power line or substation facilities, including the proposed power line route; proposed power line equipment, such as tower design and appearance, heights, conductor sizes, voltages, capacities, substations, switchyards, etc.; and a proposed schedule for authorization, construction, and commencement of operation of the facilities.*
- Descriptions of the Project are found in the Executive Summary, Chapter 1, Chapter 3, and throughout Chapter 4.
- The Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV Loop-in is described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.3, and Figure 3.3-1.
- The 115 kV subtransmission lines are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.4. The Proposed Farrell-Garnet 115 subtransmission line is described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.4.1.2, and Figure 3.4-1. The Proposed Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV subtransmission line is described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.4.2.2, and Figure 3.4-2.
- The 115 kV subtransmission line reconfigurations are described and illustrated in Chapter 3, Subsections 3.4.1.4, 3.4.2.2, and Figures 3.4-3, 3.4-4, and 3.4-5.
- The substation modifications and upgrades are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.5. Figure 1.1: Regional Map and Electrical Needs Area identifies all the substations and their geographical locations within the Electrical Needs Area.
- The telecommunication upgrades at existing SCE substations and facilities are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.6. Figure 1.2: Proposed Subtransmission System Split and Electrical Needs Area identifies the substations and Edom Hill Communications Site.
- The physical characteristics of the Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV Loop-in are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.3.4, and Figures 3.3-2 and 3.3-3. The physical characteristics of the 115 kV subtransmission lines are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.4.3, and Figures 3.4-6 and 3.4-7. The physical characteristics of the substations are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.5. The physical characteristics of telecommunication upgrades are described in Chapter 3, Subsection 3.6.

- The Project Schedule is attached to this Application as Appendix C.
  
- b. *A map of the proposed power line routing or substation location showing populated areas, parks, recreational areas, scenic areas, and existing electrical transmission or power lines within 300 feet of the proposed route or substation.*
  - Regional (Figure 1.1) and Project area (Figures 2.3 and 2.4) maps are provided in Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.
  - Maps of current land use including designation of parks, recreational and scenic areas are provided as Figures 4.9-1, 4.9-2 (a) and (b), and 4.9-3(a) and (b).
  - A map of the power line route showing its proximity to existing electrical transmission and power lines is provided as Figures.1.2, 3.3-1, 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-3, 3.4-4, and 3.4-5.
- c. *Reasons for adoption of the power line route or substation location selected, including comparison with alternative routes or locations, including the advantages and disadvantages of each.*
  - Reasons for adoption of the Devers-Coachella Valley 220 kV Loop-in and the Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split are discussed in Chapters 2 and 5, and throughout Chapter 4.
- d. *A listing of the governmental agencies with which proposed power line route or substation location reviews have been undertaken, including a written agency response to applicant's written request for a brief position statement by that agency. In the absence of a written agency position statement, the utility may submit a statement of its understanding of the position of such agencies.*
  - SCE has requested a letter stating the position from the following governmental agencies. No written responses have been received. SCE is not aware of any opposition to the Proposed Project by any contacted governmental agencies. SCE's letters requesting position statements from the governmental agencies can be found attached to the PEA in Appendix D:
    - City of Cathedral City (November 20, 2007)
    - City of Palm Desert (November 18, 2007)
    - City of Palm Springs (November 20, 2007)

- City of Rancho Mirage (November 18, 2007)
  - County of Riverside – Transportation (November 30, 2007)
  - County of Riverside – Planning (November 30, 2007)
  - County of Riverside – Supervisor Wilson (November 30, 2007)
  - Coachella Valley Water District (US ACE) (September 4, 2007)
  - Bureau of Land Management (December 10, 2007)
- SCE sent letters notifying the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) of the Project on the following dates: October 18, 2006 and October 9, 2007. The Commission responded on May 21, 2007, stating that a search of the Sacred Lands File indicated the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate Project area. A list of Native American individuals and organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the Project area was enclosed in the response from NAHC. SCE has contacted these individuals and organizations. Copies of SCE's letter to the NAHC and the various individuals and organizations identified by the NAHC are attached to the PEA in Appendix D. The NAHC's and tribal response letters are also attached to the PEA in Appendix D.
- e. A PEA or equivalent information on the environmental impact of the project in accordance with the provisions of CEQA and this Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 2.4. If a PEA is filed, it may include the data described in Items a. through d. above.*
- A PEA is attached to this Application.

**G. Compliance With GO 131D, Section X**

GO 131D, Section X, requires applications for a PTC to describe measures taken to reduce potential exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF) generated by the proposed facilities. A complete description of EMF-related issues is contained in SCE's EMF Field Management Plan for this Project attached to this Application as Appendix F. Based on its evaluation of the proposed Project, SCE has concluded that magnetic fields will be reduced utilizing low- or no-cost measures, which include:

- Using taller poles for the proposed new 115 kV subtransmission line segments;
- Using a "double-circuit" pole-head configuration for the double-circuit portion of the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Using a "triangle" type pole-head configuration for the single-circuit portion of the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Phasing the proposed 115 kV subtransmission lines with respect to the adjacent existing subtransmission lines,
- Re-phasing existing 115 kV subtransmission lines;
- Phasing the proposed 220 kV transmission lines with respect to the adjacent existing transmission lines; and
- Placing major substation electric equipment (such as transformers) away from the existing substation property lines.

**H. Compliance With Rule 2.1(c)**

In compliance with Rule 2.1(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (California Code of Regulations, Title 20), SCE is required to state in this Application "the proposed category for the proceeding, the need for hearing, the issues to be considered, and a proposed schedule." SCE proposes to categorize this Application as a rate setting proceeding. SCE anticipates that hearings will not be necessary. This proceeding involves the Commission's (i) environmental review of the proposed Project in compliance with the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the Commission's GO 131D, and (ii) issuance of a PTC authorizing SCE to construct the Project.

SCE suggests the following proposed schedule for this Application. The schedule assumes that, at the latest, the Commission will approve the appropriate CEQA document for the Project at the first Commission Meeting following the expiration of the one year period following the Commission's acceptance of a complete application as required by Public Resources Code § 21100.2.

January 31, 2008	Application filed
March 3, 2008	Application accepted as complete
April 2, 2008	Initial Study issued
October 2008	Draft CEQA document (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration or EIR) issued for comment
January 2009	Draft decision issued
March 2009	Final CEQA document approved, Final Commission decision

I. Statutory Authority

This Application is made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, GO 131D, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and prior orders and resolutions of the Commission.

J. Public Notice

Pursuant to GO 131D, Section XI.A, notice of this Application shall be given: (1) to certain public agencies and legislative bodies; (2) to owners of property located on or within 300 feet of the Project; (3) by advertisement in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation; and (4) by posting a notice on-site and off-site at the Project location.

SCE has given, or will give, proper notice within the time limits prescribed in GO 131D. A copy of the Notice of Application for a Permit to Construct and a list of newspapers which will

publish the notice are contained in Appendix D. A copy of the Proof of Service for the Notice of Application for a Permit to Construct and a service list are contained in Appendix E.

**K. Supporting Appendices And Attachment**

Appendices A through E and the PEA are made a part of this Application as listed below:

- Appendix A: Balance Sheet and Statement of Income as of September 30, 2007.
- Appendix B: List of Counties and Municipalities served by SCE.
- Appendix C: Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project Schedule.
- Appendix D: Notice of Application for a Permit to Construct.
- Appendix E: Proof of Service of Notice of Application for a Permit to Construct.
- Appendix F: EMF Field Management Plan.
- Attachment: Proponent's Environmental Assessment: Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project

**L. Compliance With Rule 2.5**

In accordance with Rule 2.5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, SCE is enclosing a deposit to be applied to the costs the Commission incurs to prepare a negative declaration or an environmental impact report for this Project.

**M. Request For Ex Parte Relief**

SCE requests that the relief requested in this Application be provided ex parte as provided for in GO 131D, Section IX.B.6.

**N. Request For Timely Relief**

SCE requests the Commission to issue a decision within the time limits prescribed by Government Code Section 65920 et seq. (the Permit Streamlining Act) as provided for in GO 131D, Section IX.B.6.

Moreover, as also addressed in Section IX.B.6 of GO 131D, SCE requests that the Commission refrain from assigning an ALJ to this proceeding, unless a valid protest is received by the Commission, and in the absence of any valid protests allow the Energy Division to process this Application.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> D.95-08-038, Appendix A, p. 25.

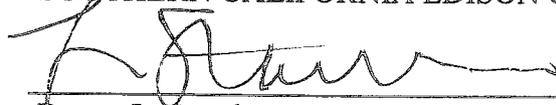
IV.

CONCLUSION

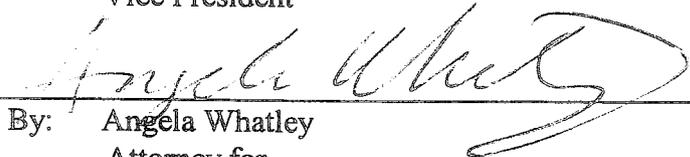
SCE respectfully requests the Commission to issue a PTC authorizing SCE to construct the Devers-Mirage 115 kV Subtransmission System Split Project described in this Application and the attached PEA. SCE further requests that the relief be provided ex parte and within the time limits prescribed by the Permit Streamlining Act.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY



By: L. Starck  
Vice President



By: Angela Whatley  
Attorney for  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Post Office Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770  
Telephone: (626) 302-3618  
Facsimile: (626) 302-1926

Dated: January 31, 2008

**VERIFICATION**

I am an officer of the applicant corporation herein, and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I am informed and believe that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2008, at Rosemead, California.



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L. Starck

Vice President

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Telephone: (626) 302-2284