

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

February 6, 2009

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

RE: SCE Antelope Transmission Project, Segment 3A – Variance Request #29

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On January 29, 2009, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance requesting the use of all disturbance areas (marshalling yards, wire setup sites, tensioning/pulling sites, and access roads) on Segment 3A as helicopter landing zones. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC for the proposed activities based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

The purpose of this request is to maximize construction efficiency to move persons and tools throughout Segment 3A.

Biological and cultural surveys were conducted for these disturbance areas and submitted to the CPUC. Additional clearance surveys will be performed during the course of construction and new resources flagged as found. Therefore, sensitive species and cultural locations have been identified to the extent that such helicopter use should not have an impact on these resources. Finally, the use of the disturbance areas as helicopter landing zones should have no greater visual impact than the presence of the disturbance area itself.

Fueling **will not** take place at these sites, unless they have been previously designated as such and approved by the CPUC. No additional grading or clearing of material will be needed for safe landing of helicopters at these sites. Disturbed areas for helicopter landings within 300 feet of any residences will be avoided as much as practicable; however, residents have been informed through construction notifications that helicopters will be used during construction.

All mitigation measures will be in full force during helicopter use, in particular those pertaining to dust control and spill containment.

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- Helicopter landings shall only occur within disturbed areas previously approved by the CPUC for the project.
- As proposed, no refueling shall occur at the subject sites unless previously designated as such and approved by the CPUC.

- Helicopter use within 300 feet of residents shall occur in accordance with the applicable local noise ordinance(s).
- Per Mitigation Measure A-1a, SCE shall implement its Fugitive Dust Control Plan at all helicopter landing zones.
- Per Mitigation Measure A-1i, SCE shall submit a monthly helicopter use log including expected hours of operation, type of helicopter, and purpose of use to the CPUC for review and approval.
- All disturbed areas approved for helicopter landing areas shall be surveyed within a 500 foot buffer for nesting birds during the breeding season. Depending on survey results, certain areas may require a buffer from construction activities, which would preclude helicopter use of some sites. Results of the nesting bird surveys shall be submitted to the CPUC and CDFG on a weekly basis.
- All project mitigation measures, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented during construction activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,



John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen