

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 11, 2011

Ms. Suzan Benz
Environmental Project Manager
Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project
6 Point Drive, 1st Floor
Brea, CA 92821-6320

RE: SCE Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 (DPV2) Transmission Line Project – Red Bluff Notice to Proceed (CPUC NTP #5)

Dear Ms. Benz:

On September 16, 2011, Southern California Edison (SCE) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to commence with upgrades of a segment of the existing SCE 12 kilovolt (kV) circuit overhead distribution line from single-phase to three-phase power to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation along the Colorado River-to-Devers 500 kV transmission line segment of the Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project

The CPUC voted on January 25, 2007 to approve the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line Project ([Decision D.07-01-040](#)). On May 14, 2008, SCE filed a Petition for Modification (PFM) of the existing Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) approved per Decision D.07-01-040. SCE requested that the CPUC authorize SCE to construct DPV2 facilities in only the California portion of DPV2 and the Midpoint Substation (now called the Colorado River Substation) near Blythe, California. The CPUC approved SCE's PFM on November 20, 2009 in [Decision D.09-11-007](#).

After the CPUC's 2009 Decision regarding the PFM, several large solar power projects were proposed in the Blythe and Desert Center areas. SCE filed Permit to Construct applications addressing expansion of the Colorado River Substation and construction of a new Red Bluff Substation. These components were not covered in the original DPV2 Final EIR/EIS, because the solar power projects had not yet been proposed, and supplemental environmental review has been conducted. The Colorado River Substation Expansion and the Red Bluff Substation were both approved by the CPUC on July 14, 2011 in Decisions D.11-07-011 and D.11-07-020, respectively.

The BLM issued a Record of Decision approving the DPV2 Project, including the Colorado River Substation Expansion, on July 19, 2011. Subsequently, the BLM issued a Record of Decision approving the Red Bluff Substation as part of the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project on August 10, 2011. BLM issued Notices to Proceed for the Red Bluff Substation and overhead transmission line construction on BLM lands on September 19, 2011. The DPV2 Project also crosses lands under jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service on the San Bernardino National Forest within an existing Forest Service-issued easement. The Forest Service will issue a revised easement signed by the Forest Supervisor. The area requested under this Notice to Proceed (NTP) does not fall under Forest Service or BLM jurisdiction.

The Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project will be constructed in eight work packages, as defined on the CPUC's project website (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspn/dpv2/dpv2.htm>). It is

anticipated that, even within the eight work packages, SCE will submit multiple separate requests for NTPs during the construction process. This is a typical process for transmission line projects. Given that the DPV2 Project has been approved by the CPUC and BLM, as described above, this segmented construction review process allows SCE to proceed with individual project components where compliance with all applicable mitigation measures and conditions can be documented.

This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this NTP, including the mitigation compliance table provided with the subject NTPR. The evaluation process ensures that all mitigation measures and Biological Opinion Conditions applicable to the location and activities covered in the NTP are implemented, as required in the CPUC's Decision and in BLM's Record of Decision (where applicable).

NTP #5 for the construction of the Red Bluff distribution line upgrades (approximately 2,600 feet) on non-BLM land is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

SCE NTP Request

The CPUC has carefully reviewed the NTP request (NTPR) submitted by SCE, and verified that it incorporates compliance with all applicable mitigation measures. Excerpts from the SCE NTP request dated September 16, 2011 are presented as follows (indented).

This section of the NTPR describes the main construction activities and site work associated with the Red Bluff Substation distribution line upgrade. Construction activities are planned between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and will occur primarily Monday through Saturday, although construction may occasionally occur on Sundays or after hours. SCE has established a toll-free information line (866) 602-DPV2 or (866) 602-3782, and website (sce.com/dpv2) to make project information accessible to the public on a 24-hour basis. The toll-free line is the designated public notification contact for DPV2 and Red Bluff Substation construction activities.

3.1 Distribution Line Upgrade

An upgrade of the existing, SCE-owned, Desert Center 12 kV circuit distribution line is required to provide power to the Red Bluff Substation. Approximately 2,600 linear feet of the existing 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line, located on non-BLM land along the south frontage of I-10, will be upgraded to convert the circuit from single-phase to three-phase. This upgrade will require the removal and replacement of eight (8) wood poles located on non-BLM property, in disturbed land adjacent to paved SCE franchise road, as shown on Figure 3. Four (4) additional new wood poles will be installed in the same non-BLM segment of property. The new wood poles will be approximately 40 feet high. This pole removal, replacement, and installation will result in approximately 500 square feet of permanent disturbance.

Two pull sites will be temporarily located on the non-BLM property to facilitate stringing operations during the distribution line upgrade. Each pull site will be approximately 150 by 50 feet, for a total temporary disturbance area of approximately 15,000 square feet (less than 0.35 acre).

3.2 Material Storage Yard

The distribution line upgrade has been awarded to PAR Construction, who currently rents property located within the City of Blythe, for use as an existing material storage yard. Material and equipment to be used in connection with the Red Bluff distribution line upgrade will be stored and maintained at the existing DPV2 Desert Center 1 and Desert Center 2 construction yards or SCE Blythe Service Center Yard. The construction yards are described as follows:

- *Desert Center 1 Yard.* The Desert Center 1 Construction Yard is an approximate 5.5-acre DPV2 CPUC-approved construction yard located on previously disturbed/fenced privately owned property previously developed for a similar use (former Wilson construction yard).

- *Desert Center 2 Yard.* The Desert Center 2 Construction Yard is an approximate 11.5-acre DPV2 CPUC-approved construction yard located on privately owned property.
- *Blythe Service Center Yard.* The Blythe Service Center Yard is located within the Blythe Service Center property currently owned, operated, and maintained by SCE.

Because these are existing material storage yards, not collocated with the Red Bluff Substation, no temporary disturbances are associated with the use of these yards.

3.3 Site Work

The primary construction activities associated with the distribution line upgrade are as follows:

- Store and haul materials daily from existing construction material storage yards in Desert Center and Blythe.
- Access existing pole locations and distribution line via existing disturbed paved road.
- Remove, replace, and install new wood poles, anchors, pole hardware, and wire from temporary pull site locations adjacent to existing disturbed road.

3.1.1 Distribution Line Upgrade

During construction, workers will travel in construction vehicles from the existing material storage yards in Desert Center or Blythe, traveling west on I-10 from Blythe, and exit on Desert Center/Rice Road south, to Aztec Road. Workers will travel east on Aztec Road, within the paved boundaries of the road. They will park on the south side of the paved road to remove and replace eight (8) existing wood poles and install four (4) additional new wood poles on the non-BLM segment.

Equipment and vehicles used to remove, replace, and install the wood poles and power cable on non-BLM property, will utilize the existing disturbed paved road along the alignment, to avoid encountering cultural and biological resources. Following installation of the poles, wire will be strung from pull sites located immediately to the east and west ends of the segment. Only two pull sites, approximately 50' x 150' each, will be located on non-BLM property, totaling approximately 15,000 square feet (or) less than 0.35 acre.

Material and equipment will be staged at the existing DPV2 CPUC approved Desert Center 1 and 2 material storage yards and the existing Blythe Service Center or existing Contractor yard in Blythe, which are all currently prepared and ready for use by the Contractor. For dust control, the Contractor may use water from the Riverside County Water District hydrant located at 26251 Parkview Drive, in Desert Center, or another nearby appurtenance identified by the District for the Contractor's use. The Contractor will meter water use at the hydrant. In addition, the Contractor may use a street sweeper to remove track-out at the end of each day, if necessary.

4.0 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Table 1 shows the anticipated schedule for the Red Bluff Substation Distribution Line Upgrade construction activities.

- Distribution Line Material Storage: [duration] 3 months; [beginning] September 2011
- Distribution Line Construction: [duration] 2 months; [beginning] October 2011

CPUC Evaluation of Pre-Construction Mitigation Implementation

All applicable project mitigation measures, AMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and are required to be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable. For biological, cultural, and paleontological resources and land use, those additional conditions are discussed and defined in this section. The mitigation compliance table provided with the NTPR provides pre-construction compliance information for the other issue areas addressed by the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm EIS.

Following the discussion of biological, cultural, land use, and paleontological resources, a list of bulleted conditions is presented to define additional information and clarifications regarding outstanding requirements. In some cases, these items exceed the requirements of the Mitigation Measures and Applicant Measures (AM), and are based on specific site conditions. In these cases, the conditions will not also appear in the NTPR mitigation compliance table.

Biological Resources

This section presents a background for biological resources that occur, or could occur, along the approximately 2,600-foot length of non-BLM property associated with the upgrade of the existing SCE 12 kVA distribution line and undefined areas designated for pull sites located immediately to the east and west ends of the segment. This summary of biological issues is based on information provided in the *Biological Resources Technical Report for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project* (July, 2010), SCE's *Notice to Proceed Request for the Red Bluff Substation Project Distribution Line* (NTPR) (September, 2011) and a field verification study conducted on October 6, 2011 by Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen).

Construction activities associated with the distribution line upgrade would primarily occur within lands immediately adjacent to a paved roadway (Aztec Road). SCE has indicated that the existing 12 kVA distribution line is located on disturbed land due to its proximity to Aztec Road. However, the majority of the areas that would be disturbed as a result of construction activities associated with the upgrade support sparsely to moderately dense creosote bush scrub and non-vegetated dry washes with some patches of barren ground immediately adjacent to the existing roadway.

The USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) was issued on July 6, 2011 for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project (Solar Farm), which included the Red Bluff Substation Project (Red Bluff) and associated project components. CDFG issued a 2080.1 Consistency Determination for the Solar Farm and Red Bluff Projects on August 26, 2011.

In accordance with the USFWS BO, Mitigation Measures presented in the Final EIS for the Solar Farm Project (Final EIS), and AMs included as part of project development, a Qualified Biologist(s) shall conduct the appropriate pre-construction clearance surveys for special-status species prior to any ground disturbing activities and be present throughout the duration of all construction activities associated with the transmission line upgrade. Additionally, SCE shall implement all other applicable conditions of the USFWS BO, Final EIS Mitigation Measures, and AMs for biological resources that occur, or could occur, in all areas subject to disturbance.

Special-status plants. No special-status plant species, including cacti that would be eligible for salvaging, were detected within non-BLM lands during surveys conducted in Spring 2010. However, several cacti species that occur within the general vicinity include foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha vivipara*), fish-hook cactus (*Mammalaria* spp.), golden cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*), and pencil cholla (*O. ramosissima*). Although special-status plant species are not expected to be impacted by activities associated with distribution line upgrades, SCE would implement specific conditions and Mitigation Measures to ensure that impacts are minimized and/or avoided, should any special-status plants occur. These would include, but not be limited to, pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, and preparation and implementation of a Vegetation Resources Management Plan.

Special-status wildlife. No federal or State listed wildlife species were identified within non-BLM lands during habitat assessments and focused surveys conducted between 2008 and 2010; however, desert tortoises were observed at two locations near the footprint of the Red Bluff Substation and one active desert tortoise burrow was detected 200 feet north of the distribution line. Although focused surveys

confirmed the presence of a low density desert tortoise population within Red Bluff Project area, no desert tortoises or desert tortoise sign were observed along the non-BLM portion of the distribution line. Anticipated impacts to desert tortoise, should this species occur, have been incorporated within formal Section 7 consultation between SCE and the USFWS and will be offset/mitigated through implementation of conditions of the BO and Mitigation Measures presented in the Final EIS specifically for desert tortoise. No other federal or State listed wildlife species are expected to be impacted by activities associated with the distribution line upgrade on non-BLM lands.

Other special-status wildlife species identified during surveys conducted for the Solar Farm and Red Bluff Project included burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*), and burrow deer (*Odocoileus hemionus eremicus*). Phase I assessments conducted by SCE determined that suitable habitat for burrowing owl exists throughout the greater project area. Subsequently, Phase II surveys were conducted concurrently with focused desert tortoise surveys between 2008 and 2010 to determine the presence/absence of suitable nesting burrows in the project area. To date, no owls have been identified in the non-BLM portion of the distribution line area. Nonetheless, SCE will conduct pre-construction clearance surveys for burrowing owl, and other special-status species, prior to any ground disturbance activities associated with upgrade to the distribution line on non-BLM lands. If burrowing owls are detected on non-BLM lands during these surveys, or at any time during construction, appropriate measures, including Phase III surveys, established buffers, monitoring, shall be implemented. Although each of the remaining species were identified in the greater Solar Farm and/or Red Bluff Project areas (or within a 10-mile nest survey area for golden eagle), none were detected along the non-BLM portion of the distribution line. However, the portion of the distribution line on non-BLM lands, and adjacent areas, support suitable habitat for each of these species. As previously mentioned, SCE will conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status species and implement appropriate measures should any be detected onsite. Focused surveys for special-status bat species have not been conducted within the Red Bluff Project area, including the portion of the distribution line on non-BLM lands. However, the entire Red Bluff Project area supports suitable habitat for a variety of special-status bats and SCE shall implement required pre-construction surveys and monitoring throughout construction activities to ensure that any impacts to bats, should they occur, are avoided and/or minimized.

Jurisdictional drainages. SCE's NTPR states that CDFG jurisdictional features (numerous dry washes that support desert dry wash habitat) are present within the distribution line component of the Red Bluff Project area. The NTPR further states that implementation of activities associated with upgrades to the distribution line on non-BLM lands would not result in impacts to any features under CDFG jurisdiction since poles will be located outside of any desert dry wash streambeds. However, the field verification study conducted by Aspen on October 6, 2011 determined that some of the areas where ground disturbance activities would occur may encroach upon these CDFG jurisdictional features. Although CDFG has issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) for the Red Bluff Project, SCE would be required to provide additional concurrence from CDFG that those areas that would be subject to disturbance would not satisfy conditions that meet CDFG jurisdiction. In the event that any areas that are not covered under the SAA and that would meet conditions of CDFG jurisdiction are disturbed during construction associated with the transmission line upgrade on non-BLM lands, SCE shall provide additional disturbance acreages to CDFG, USFWS, and the CPUC in order to incorporate these additional disturbance acreages into final mitigation/compensation requirements. The non-BLM component of the distribution line does not support drainages or wetlands that would be considered under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction.

Vegetation Management. According to SCE's NTPR, anticipated permanent impacts to native vegetation communities would be limited to a total of 500 square feet of creosote bush scrub. These impacts account for the eight existing poles to be removed and replaced and the four additional new wood poles to be installed on the non-BLM portion of the distribution line. Temporary impacts to vegetation communities would include those areas where construction vehicles would access two temporary pull sites. Although the precise locations for these sites has yet to be determined, the NTPR estimates that approximately 9,946 square feet of creosote bush scrub habitat would be temporarily disturbed.

In order to ensure that ground disturbance is limited to overall acreages provided in the NTPR, SCE shall clearly flag, stake, or mark all permanent and temporary impact boundaries prior to any activities associated with the distribution line upgrade on non-BLM lands. As the two locations for pulling sites have yet to be specifically determined, SCE shall provide maps to the CPUC that identify final impact boundaries at each of these locations prior to ground disturbance. All work shall be strictly limited to defined boundaries. All material and equipment to be used in connection with the Red Bluff distribution line upgrade will be stored and maintained at the existing DPV2 Desert Center 1 and Desert Center 2 Construction Yards or SCE's Blythe Service Center Yard.

SCE is currently developing a Restoration Plan and a Habitat Compensation Plan (HRCP) to address restoration and compensation of all areas disturbed by construction associated with the Red Bluff Project. The restoration component of this plan is intended to target areas where onsite restoration is planned for mitigation of temporary impacts to vegetation communities. As such, SCE will be allowed to commence ground-disturbing activities associated with upgrade to the distribution line on non-BLM lands prior to final approval of each of these plans; however such activities shall only be initiated upon SCE demonstrating compliance with Mitigation Measures and conditions provided in the Final EIS and BO, respectively, regarding the purchase of offsite mitigation lands for permanent impacts to creosote bush scrub habitat and State jurisdictional streambeds (in the absence of concurrence from CDFG that impact areas do not meet conditions for CDFG jurisdiction). Documentation that identifies compliance with applicable Mitigation Measures and conditions shall be provided to the CPUC, CDFG, and USFWS, prior to ground-disturbing activities that result in permanent impacts. Additionally, SCE shall provide documentation which provides a record of the perimeter of the post-construction project footprint to the CPUC, CDFG, and USFWS in a GIS-compatible format to verify the extent of project disturbance.

A Weed Control Plan under AM-BIO-2 is currently being prepared by SCE to control the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive plant species in the project area or into adjacent undisturbed habitats during the project activity period. Ground-disturbing activities associated with upgrade to the transmission line on non-BLM lands may commence prior to the final approval of this plan by the CPUC provided SCE has completed preliminary baseline invasive and noxious weed inventories and implements standard weed control measures throughout the duration of construction activities.

Cultural Resources

Based on background research, no known cultural resources were identified near or within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the Red Bluff Substation Distribution Line. No site specific cultural resources NTP conditions are recommended. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials within the Red Bluff Substation Distribution Line during construction activities associated with the distribution line upgrade, all ground-disturbing work within the immediate area of the discovery will be suspended. Any new discoveries shall be managed in compliance with the following Plan of Discovery Procedures outlined in Section 8.6.3 (Cultural Resources Unanticipated Discovery Procedures)

set forth in the Final Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm (DSSF)¹:

- Construction is halted within 200 feet of the discovery, and the Cultural Resources Monitor (CRM) will inspect the area for additional resources and notify the Project Archaeologist.
- If the find qualifies as an isolate that requires no avoidance, the discovery will be documented and reported in the DSSF Cultural Resources Monitoring Report.
- The Project Archaeologist notifies the BLM of the find within 24 hours. Construction work may resume in the area when the BLM receives notification of the discovery and approves the accompanying required information.
- If the discovery has the potential to be an historic property, and/or potentially significant, the Project Archaeologist will provide sufficient information regarding the find, to the BLM, and project owner. The prohibition on construction in the vicinity of the resource shall remain in force until the Project Archaeologist and BLM Archaeologist have consulted with respect to treatment of the discovery. Tribal monitors may suggest options for treatment of finds for consideration by BLM. BLM shall have ultimate authority over the treatment of new finds.

Paleontological Resources

Based on the Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (CH2M Hill 2011), submitted to the CPUC on April 20, 2011, the potential to encounter paleontological resources within the Red Bluff Substation Distribution Line is low. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan, low sensitivity units will be monitored intermittently, to verify the low sensitivity classification, as determined by the Paleontological Resource Specialist. In the unlikely event that a paleontological resource discovery is made during site development, all construction activities in the area of the discovery must cease, and the Discovery of Fossils protocol, as specified in the Plan will be followed (1-Notification, 2-Avoidance and Continued Construction Activities, and 3-Determining Significance of a Discovered Paleontological Resource).

Land Use and Sensitive Receptors

The existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line is located on the south side of the substation site and continues west towards Desert Center along Aztec Road. The portion of the distribution line, which is not located on BLM land, is located adjacent to the paved section of Aztec Road, which parallels Interstate 10 to the south. As shown in aerial photographs and noted in the NTPR, no sensitive receptors are located within 300 feet of this non-BLM construction segment.

Conditions of NTP Approval

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

1. All applicable project mitigation measures, AMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable. The NTPR mitigation compliance table provides applicable pre- and during construction requirements. Bulleted items can be found below which provide additional information and clarifications to outstanding requirements.

¹ Chandler, Evelyn, and Roger D. Mason. 2011. Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project, Desert Center Vicinity, Riverside County, California.

2. Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, the subject NTPR, and this Notice to Proceed shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities.
3. Verification of noticing mailings including address lists, postings and newspaper postings, as required under Mitigation Measures AM-LAND-1 and AM-SOCIO-1 shall be submitted to the CPUC prior to construction.
4. All crew members shall be trained through a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) prior to working on the project. A log shall be maintained onsite with the names of all crew personnel trained. For any crew members with limited English, a translator shall be onsite to ensure understanding of the training program. In place of a translator, the WEAP training brochure can be provided in Spanish or other languages as appropriate. All participants will receive a hard hat sticker for ease of compliance verification.
5. Prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities, all work area boundaries associated with temporary and permanent disturbance shall be clearly staked, flagged, or marked. All workers shall strictly limit access and vehicles to the designated work limits. Removal of any perennial, native vegetation in work areas shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Access to work areas in undisturbed habitat shall be achieved by crushing, instead of removal, to the maximum extent practicable.
6. SCE shall prepare and implement a Habitat Compensation Plan to compensate for the loss of creosote bush scrub and jurisdictional resources (absent concurrence from CDFG that impact areas do not meet conditions for CDFG jurisdiction). Ground disturbing activities may commence prior to final approval of this plan by the CPUC provided SCE demonstrates compliance with Mitigation Measures and conditions in the Final EIS and BO, respectively, regarding compensation ratios and the purchase of offsite mitigation lands for permanent impacts.
7. SCE shall prepare an Integrated Weed Management Plan that will identify measures to control introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the project area, worker training, specifications, and inspection procedures for construction materials and equipment used in the project area. Ground disturbing activities may commence prior to final approval of this plan by the CPUC provided SCE implements standard weed control measures, as identified in the USFWS BO.
8. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status plant species and cacti prior to any ground disturbing activities. All special-status plant species identified shall be flagged for salvage and/or transplantation.
9. SCE shall prepare and implement a Vegetation Resources Management Plan that contains the following components:
 - a. A Vegetation Salvage Plan which discusses the methods that will be used to transplant special-status plants and cacti present within any disturbance areas.
 - b. A Restoration Plan which specifies success criteria and performance standards Mitigation Measure BIO-4.

Activities associated with the transmission line upgrade on non-BLM lands may commence prior to final approval of the Vegetation Resources Management Plan provided SCE demonstrates that standard BLM operating procedures will be implemented in all plant transplanting efforts.

10. A CPUC-approved biologist shall conduct construction monitoring during all site mobilization and ground-disturbing activities to ensure that all activities are contained within the staked and flagged construction limits at all times. The Construction Monitor shall be responsible for all tasks defined

under Mitigation Measure BIO-1 of the Final EIS and any additional measures and/or conditions of the Final EIS and BO where biological monitoring duties are defined.

11. Pursuant to AM-WIL-1, SCE shall implement the CPUC-approved Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan should desert tortoise be identified in the Project area during construction activities associated with the transmission line upgrade. This plan details specific monitoring requirements, handling techniques, and translocation processes that shall be implemented should desert tortoise be discovered onsite.
12. SCE has submitted a request to the USFWS to prepare the Deposit Document for the Red Bluff contribution to the REAT-NFWF Raven Management Plan Account. Preparation for deposit of this contribution is currently in progress. SCE states in the NTPR for the distribution line upgrade on non-BLM lands that this payment is not required prior to commencement of distribution line construction. As such, SCE shall provide concurrence to the CPUC from USFWS that construction activities associated with the transmission line upgrade on non-BLM lands may commence prior to final receipt of this contribution.
13. SCE shall prepare and implement a CPUC-approved Avian and Bat Protection Plan that conforms to the 2010 USFWS avian and bat protection guidelines and appropriate Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) standards.
14. SCE shall conduct the appropriate pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife species as outlined in the Final EIS and BO. These surveys shall include, but may not be limited to, American badger and desert kit fox, Nelson's bighorn sheep, nesting birds (including golden eagle and other raptors), burrowing owl, bats, and desert tortoise. All surveys for special-status wildlife shall follow methods and reporting techniques provided in Mitigation Measures and conditions of the Final EIS and BO, respectively.
15. In compliance with conditions of the BO, an Authorized Biologist has been designated (Lehong Chow). SCE shall ensure that the Authorized Biologist performs all duties outlined in the USFWS BO during any site mobilization or Project related ground disturbing activities. No activities shall be initiated until the Authorized Biologist is onsite. The Authorized Biologist shall have the authority to halt all work activities that are not in compliance with the project's conservation measures and incidental take permit requirements.
16. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials within the Red Bluff Substation Distribution Line during construction activities associated with the distribution line upgrade, all ground-disturbing work within the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended.
17. Any new cultural resources discoveries shall be managed in compliance with the following Plan of Discovery Procedures outlined in Section 8.6.3 (Cultural Resources Unanticipated Discovery Procedures) set forth in the Final Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm (DSSF)²:
 - Construction shall be halted within 200 feet of the discovery, and the Cultural Resources Monitor (CRM) will inspect the area for additional resources and notify the Project Archaeologist.
 - If the find qualifies as an isolate that requires no avoidance, the discovery shall be documented and reported in the DSSF Cultural Resources Monitoring Report.

² Chandler, Evelyn, and Roger D. Mason. 2011. Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project, Desert Center Vicinity, Riverside County, California.

- The Project Archaeologist shall notify the BLM of the find within 24 hours. Construction work may resume in the area when the BLM receives notification of the discovery and approves the accompanying required information.
 - If the discovery has the potential to be an historic property, and/or potentially significant, the Project Archaeologist shall provide sufficient information regarding the find, to the BLM, and project owner. The prohibition on construction in the vicinity of the resource shall remain in force until the Project Archaeologist and BLM Archaeologist have consulted with respect to treatment of the discovery. Tribal monitors may suggest options for treatment of finds for consideration by BLM. BLM shall have ultimate authority over the treatment of new finds.
18. In accordance with the Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan, low sensitivity units shall be monitored intermittently, to verify the low sensitivity classification, as determined by the Paleontological Resource Specialist.
 19. In the unlikely event that a paleontological resource discovery is made during site development, all construction activities in the area of the discovery must cease, and the Discovery of Fossils protocol, as specified in the Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be followed (1-Notification, 2-Avoidance and Continued Construction Activities, and 3-Determining Significance of a Discovered Paleontological Resource).
 20. The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) shall be notified immediately of any unanticipated cultural, paleontological, or biological resource discoveries.
 21. Construction and demolition waste associated with pole removal will be removed and transported to permitted disposal facilities in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations as described in the Hazardous Materials, Waste Handling and Emergency Release Response Plan.
 22. If the application of water is needed to abate dust in construction areas and on dirt roads, SCE shall use the least amount needed to meet safety and air quality standards and prevent the formation of puddles, which could attract wildlife to construction sites.
 23. SCE shall obtain required haul and ingress/egress and permits for any temporary lane closures from the County of Riverside or other jurisdictions as necessary. Copies of permits shall be submitted to the CPUC. If temporary lane closures are needed, SCE shall coordinate in advance with emergency service providers and shall provide documentation to the CPUC.
 24. No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes in technique and mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a Variance Request, as defined in the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan for this project shall be submitted for CPUC review.
 25. No clearing or disturbance to vegetation shall occur outside of approved work areas.
 26. If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, appropriate jurisdictional agencies and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Billie Blanchard

Billie Blanchard

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CPUC Environmental Project Manager
Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project

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