

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 17, 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 - Notice to Proceed (CPUC NTP #6)

Dear Ms. Benz:

On September 19, 2011, Southern California Edison (SCE) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to commence with construction and occupation of the following components associated with Colorado River Substation (CRS) on non-federal lands: (1) extension of an existing 33 kilovolt (kV) distribution line to supply station light and power; (2) installation of a telecommunication line (telecom line), and (3) access road improvements (including a new access driveway) to serve the CRS. CRS is located at the eastern end 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. The 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/aspen/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 #6 for the construction of the CRS distribution line extension, telecommunications line, and access road improvements on non-federal 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 19, 2011 are presented as follows (indented).

This section describes the main project elements and disturbance areas associated with the 33 kV distribution line extension to the CRS, the telecom line, and the access road improvements (including the new driveway). Construction operating hours are planned to generally be from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, but could vary depending on the time of year. In addition, construction may occasionally occur on Sundays. For the portions of the telecom line that occurs within close proximity to a residence or noise-sensitive receptor, construction work hours would occur from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in compliance with the applicable noise ordinance, or a variance from the ordinance restrictions would be requested. SCE has established a DPV2 toll-free information line (866-602-3782) and website (www.sce.com/dpv2). The information line is the designated public notification contact for DPV2.

3.1 Distribution Line Extension

The approximately 12,000-foot distribution line extension would occur from an existing 33 kV line located north of the substation site, as shown in the Project Site and Access Mapbook, Figures 2-234, 2-233, 2-231, and 2-277 to 2-279. Major elements and activities of the distribution line extension include:

- Approximately 50 wood poles, including anchor sites to support poles (disturbance area of approximately 0.04 acres)
- Approximately 12,000 circuit feet of 33 kV wire
- Wire pull sites (approximately 11 drive and crush sites at up to 50 feet by 150 feet each for a disturbance area of approximately 1.8 acres)
- Drive and Crush line access (approximately 11,900 feet by 14 feet with a disturbance area of approximately 3.1 acres)
- Underground installation (approximately 120 feet with a disturbance area of approximately 0.04 acres)
- Transformers, rack structures, and related distribution equipment (pole disturbances included in the first bullet)
- Temporary power for construction (temporary power poles, wire, and panels)
- Staging area(s) for material and equipment storage (the Blythe Construction Yard, an existing utility storage yard or another disturbed or developed area to be identified by the construction contractor)

There are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the distribution line extension.

3.2 Northern Telecommunications Line

The Northern Telecom Line is shown in the Project Site and Access Mapbook, Figures 2-234, 2-233, 2-231, and 2-277 to 2-295. Approximately 10 miles of All-Dielectric Self-Supporting (ADSS) cable would be installed along the entire northern telecom route on the same poles installed as part of the Distribution Line Extension described in Section 3.1, and on existing poles to the east to the Buck Substation. The Northern Telecom Line would not require installation of any new poles (only the installation of cable on existing poles), but would require a 2,400-foot section of underground conduit in Buck Boulevard between the substation and Hobson Way. Major elements and activities of the telecom line include:

- Approximately 10 miles of ADSS line
- Drive and Crush line access (for ADSS installation)
- Installation of approximately 2,400 feet of underground conduit in Buck Boulevard

There could be sensitive receptors along the telecom route at its east end.

3.3 Access Road Improvements and New Access Driveway

The existing access road between Wiley's Well Road and the existing DPV1 Tower M129-T1 near the CRS will be improved to create an approximately 28-foot-wide, 5-mile-long asphaltic concrete paved substation driveway, including 2-foot-wide compacted and stabilized unpaved shoulders on either side of the roadway. A new access driveway between M129-T1 and the western wall of the CRS would also be created and improved to the same standards. The access road, shown in the Project Site and Access Mapbook (Figures 2-223 through 2-231, 2-233, and 2-234) would also include drainage culverts, and improved approaches to existing spur roads. Elevated portions of the driveway would also have 2:1 side slopes or less. Existing spur road connections would be improved to transition the improved access road back to existing grade. The new asphaltic concrete paved driveway will provide permanent facility access at two gates along the west side of the substation.

Major elements and activities of the improved access road include:

- Widened access road (asphaltic concrete) and driveway, excluding existing access road area: approximately 7.7 acres
- Grading limits for improvements to the existing access road and new driveway excluding improved road: approximately 15.2 acres
- Work zone outside of grading limits (15 feet on each side): approximately 19.1 acres

There are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the access road.

3.4 Site Work

The table below identifies the primary construction activities associated with the distribution line extension, installation of telecom lines, and access road improvements.

DISTRIBUTION LINE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Drive and crush access by equipment and vehicles
- Installation of wood poles, anchors, pole hardware, and wire
- Trenching to install underground sections of the distribution line
- Temporary transformers and panels to support power drops for construction

TELECOM LINE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Route access by equipment and vehicles
- Installation of wire (drive and crush and roadside access)
- Installation of underground conduit and related accessories

ACCESS ROAD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Grading, fill, and compaction
- Installation of drainage infrastructure
- Application and compaction of road base
- Installation of pavement

3.4.1 Distribution Line Extension

During construction of the extended distribution line, the site will be accessed either from an existing access road (east from Wiley's Well Road approximately 5 miles) or the existing road along the existing distribution line (approximately one-third mile south of I-10).

Equipment and vehicles used to install the wood poles and power cable would utilize drive and crush methods during installation. The vehicles and equipment would generally follow a path to the east or south of the pole locations or existing disturbed areas to avoid encountering cultural resources. Following installation of the poles, the wire would be strung. Material and equipment would be staged at the Blythe Construction Yard, an existing utility storage yards (such as SCE's Blythe Service Center located at 505 W 14th Street in Blythe) or other disturbed locations; however their locations have not yet been identified. SCE anticipates the construction contractor identifying a yard location following contract award. In addition, water sources for dust control may include fire hydrants or other sources whose locations have not yet been identified. Water sources would be identified as part of the bid and award process.

3.4.2 Telecom Line Installation

During installation of the telecom line along the new poles to the north of the CRS (for the distribution line extension), the route and stringing locations will be accessed either from an existing access road (east from Wiley's Well Road approximately 5 miles), the existing road along the existing distribution line (east of the distribution line extension), or the roadway adjacent to the existing poles. Equipment and vehicles used to install the cable would utilize drive and crush methods during installation along the distribution line extension route and would follow the same path as used for the distribution line extension to avoid encountering cultural resources. Installation the line to the east of the distribution line extension would occur from existing access roads. Material and equipment would be staged at an existing utility storage yard or another disturbed location (to be identified at a later date). In addition, water sources for dust control may include fire hydrants or other sources whose locations have not yet been identified. Water sources would be identified as part of the bid and award process.

3.4.3 Access Road Improvements and New Access Driveway

Construction of improvements to the existing access road and the new access driveway would involve grading, installation of drainage facilities and culverts, fill placement and compaction, road base placement and compaction, and application of pavement. These activities would likely occur sequentially. In addition, the work will be staged to maintain access to and from the main substation site. Water sources for dust control may include a new well at the site (that would be installed on BLM land), fire hydrants or other sources whose locations have not yet been identified. Water sources would be identified as part of the bid and award process.

4.0 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The anticipated activity schedule for the CRS construction activities is shown in the table below.

- Overhead Distribution Installation: 2 months; [beginning] October 2011
- Telecommunications Line: 3 months; [beginning] October 2011
- Access Road Improvements: 5 months; [beginning] November 2011

CPUC Evaluation of Pre-Construction Mitigation Implementation

All applicable project mitigation measures, APMs, 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 resources, 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 DPV2 EIR/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 Proposed Measures, 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 distribution line extension, northern telecom line alignment, and existing access road improvements work sites. This summary of biological issues is based on information provided in SCE's *Notice to Proceed Request for the Colorado River Substation, Distribution Line Extension, Telecommunications Line, and Access Road Improvements* (NTPR) (September, 2011) and a field verification study conducted on September 28, 2011 by Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen). It should be noted that many of the reports used to develop SCE's NTPR consist of survey results that were either geographically limited to tower location sites or temporally limited to seasonal periods which may not provide a complete representation of the special-status plants and wildlife that could potentially occur in the Project area.

Construction activities associated with the distribution line extension and access road improvements would occur in or adjacent to a variety of native vegetation communities, two of which are considered sensitive by the CDFG, including big galleta Shrub-Steppe and creosote bush scrub-big galleta. Additional impacts are expected to occur within blue palo verde woodland, creosote bush-white bursage scrub, creosote bush scrub, white bursage, and stabilized and partially stabilized desert dune habitats as a result of construction activities associated with the extension of the existing distribution line, access road improvements, and pulling/wiring site development.

The USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) for the DPV2 Project, which includes all activities associated with the CRS, was issued on January 11, 2011. CDFG issued a 2080.1 Consistency Determination for the DPV2 Project on April 27, 2011. In accordance with the USFWS BO, the CDFG Consistency Determination, Mitigation Measures presented in the DPV2 Final EIR/EIS, and APMs 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 shall be present throughout the duration of all construction activities associated with the components of the NTP. Additionally, SCE shall implement all other applicable conditions of the USFWS BO, CDFG Consistency Determination, Final EIR/EIS Mitigation Measures, and APMs for biological resources that occur, or could occur, in all areas subject to disturbance.

Special-status plants. To date, four special-status plant species have been recorded within 200 feet of the Project elements or within a 1-mile survey buffer around the CRS Substation limits. These include Harwood's milk-vetch (*Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*), Harwood's woollystar (*Eriastrum harwoodii*), ribbed cryptantha (*Cryptantha costata*), and winged cryptantha (*Cryptantha holoptera*). None of these

species are federally or State listed as threatened or endangered. However, Harwood's woollystar is designated as a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B. 2 species, which is considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

Although the SCE NTPR states that no transplantable species were recorded in the Project area during surveys, plant species that are covered under the California Desert Native Plant Act (CDNPA), including blue palo verde, ironwood, and a variety of cacti, shall be flagged and avoided to the extent possible, should they occur. Those individual plants that cannot be avoided shall be marked for transplantation to suitable habitat outside the Project area.

Special-status wildlife. Special-status wildlife species that have been detected within 200 feet of the Project elements or within the 1-mile survey buffer around the CRS Substation limits include desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Swainson's hawk (*B. swainsoni*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), and desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*).

Desert tortoise is listed as a threatened species under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts (ESA and CESA, respectively). Anticipated impacts to this species have been incorporated within formal Section 7 consultation between SCE and the USFWS and will be offset/mitigated through implementation of conditions of the USFWS BO, CDFG Consistency Determination, and Mitigation Measures presented in the Final EIR/EIS developed specifically for desert tortoise. The Swainson's hawk is State-listed as threatened under the CESA. The CDFG Consistency Determination does not address impacts to this species. As such, impacts to Swainson's hawk, should this species be present during construction activities, shall be strictly avoided unless otherwise authorized by CDFG. No other federal or State listed wildlife species are expected to be impacted by activities associated with the components of this NTP on non-BLM lands.

Of the remaining special-status wildlife species that have been identified during surveys, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, and LeConte's thrasher are considered Species of Special Concern (SSC) by CDFG. Loggerhead shrike and northern harrier are also considered SSC by CDFG; however, only when breeding or nesting. Ferruginous hawk is designated as a CDFG Watch List (WL) species, while desert kit fox is not considered a special-status species, however, this species is protected under Title 14, California Code of Regulations (sections 670.2 and 670.5), and potential impacts to individuals of this species must be avoided.

Broadly based Mitigation Measures provided in the Final EIR/EIS, such as pre-construction clearance surveys and biological monitoring, along with species-specific Mitigation Measures for Mojave fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, and desert kit fox will be implemented throughout the duration of all construction activities associated with this NTP.

Jurisdictional Waters. SCE has indicated that no federal or State jurisdictional waters occur within the disturbance limits associated with the Project components of this NTP. However, the Biological Assessment for the Telecom Route, prepared by Dudek in October 2009 (and referenced in the SCE NTPR), identified several irrigation canals and ephemeral drainages that would likely meet the conditions of CDFG jurisdiction. The CDFG Draft Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) is currently being prepared. As the Final SAA has not yet been authorized by CDFG, SCE would be required to provide concurrence from CDFG that those areas that would be subject to disturbance would not satisfy conditions that meet CDFG jurisdiction. In the absence of a Final SAA, any areas that would meet conditions for CDFG jurisdiction that are disturbed during construction activities shall be mapped and

the disturbance acreages shall be reported to CDFG, USFWS, and CPUC in order to incorporate these disturbance acreages into final mitigation/compensation requirements. SCE has stated that the Project area 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, the Project is expected to result in a total of 15.27 acres and 23.31 acres of permanent and temporary impacts, respectively. The majority of these impacts would occur in native vegetation communities and habitats and would primarily be associated with access road improvements. Although the locations for distribution pull sites and fiber optic wire sites have yet to be determined, construction activities associated with these features are expected to result in temporary impacts of approximately 3.6 acres.

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 extension, fiber optic line installation, or access road improvements and development. SCE has requested that access roads not be flagged and marked due to unanticipated constraints; however, conditions provided in the USFWS BO state that all impact limits shall be clearly marked. As such, SCE would require concurrence from USFWS to refrain from flagging, staking, and/or marking access road disturbance limits. As locations for pulling and wire 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 activities covered under this NTP will be stored and maintained at the approved Blythe Construction Yard or an existing utility storage yard. Storage at any other location would likely require a Variance or Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) request and CPUC approval. Similarly, any water supply locations not previously approved by CPUC, would require CPUC approval.

SCE is currently developing a Habitat Compensation/Restoration Plan (HCRP) to address restoration and compensation of all areas disturbed by construction associated with the overall DPV2 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 covered under this NTP on non-BLM lands prior to final approval of this plan; however such activities shall only be initiated upon SCE demonstrating compliance with Mitigation Measures and conditions provided in the Final EIR/EIS and USFWS BO, respectively, regarding the purchase of offsite mitigation lands for permanent impacts to native habitats 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.

Where possible, Project infrastructure, including wooden pole locations, pulling/splicing stations, and access roads, will be located so as to avoid sensitive plants or plant communities. Whenever possible, temporary disturbance areas shall be recontoured or restored in compliance with the Project's Draft HCRP.

A Weed Control Plan under Mitigation Measure B-2a 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 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 all construction activities.

Cultural Resources

Based on background research, 16 known cultural resources were identified near or within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the Colorado River Substation Distribution Line. In the absence of a Final Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Project, a Plan of Discovery for Cultural Resources During Construction-Related Activities at the Colorado River Substation (Plan; Williams 2011) has been prepared and finalized. As stated in the Plan, all cultural resources within the APE of proposed construction-related activities will be identified and protected as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). These sites may include those determined eligible for NRHP listing by the BLM, or others that have not had formal eligibility evaluations. Sixteen cultural resources sites, within the Colorado River Substation Distribution Line, will be flagged off with temporary orange fencing (t-post and orange mesh) and designated as ESAs. An archaeological monitor shall direct the construction contractor of where to install the fencing. The ESA installation shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. No activity will be permitted within established ESA. In addition, an archaeological and Native American monitor shall be present during all ground disturbing activities within 50-feet of the established ESA.

Lastly, in accordance with Mitigation Measure (MM) **C-1e: Monitor construction**, *archaeological monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist familiar with the types of historical and prehistoric resources that could be encountered within the project, and under direct supervision of a principal archaeologist. The qualifications of the principal archaeologist and archaeological monitors shall be approved by the BLM and CPUC.* Therefore, in order to comply with MM C-1e, resumes of the principal archaeologist and archaeological monitors must be submitted to the BLM and CPUC for review and approval before monitoring may begin.

The following sites within the APE for the Colorado River Substation Distribution Line will be protected as ESAs:

Cultural Resources Sites within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) (n=16)	
Site Designation	Description
P-33-002793	Prehistoric lithic quarry, lithic scatter
P-33-002794	Prehistoric lithic scatter
P-33-002795	Prehistoric lithic quarry, lithic scatter
P-33-002796	Prehistoric lithic quarry, lithic scatter
P-33-014082	Parker-Blythe No. 2 161kV transmission line
P-33-017317	Prehistoric lithic scatter
P-33-017318	Prehistoric lithic scatter
P-33-018054	Historical refuse scatter, vehicle track segment
P-33-018055	Historical refuse scatter
P-33-018056	DTC/C-AMA bivouac, refuse scatter
P-33-018057	Historical refuse scatter
P-33-018071	US GLO Survey Marker
P-33-018848	Historical refuse scatter
P-33-018849	Historical refuse scatter
P-33-018850	Historical refuse scatter

Cultural Resources Sites within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) (n=16)	
Site Designation	Description
P-33-019727	Prehistoric lithic processing area

In the event that a cultural resource discovery is made during site development, the find shall be managed in compliance with the following procedures set forth in the Plan:

- Construction is halted within 200' of the discovery, and the Designated Cultural Resources Specialist (DCRS) is notified. A Cultural Resources Monitor (CRM) will inspect the area for additional resources and notify the DCRS.
- If the discovery qualifies as an isolate that requires no avoidance (with the exception of human remains), the discovery will be documented and reported in a cultural resources monitoring report.
- The DCRS/CRS notifies the BLM and CPUC of the find within 24 hours. Construction work may resume in the area when the BLM and CPUC receive notification of the discovery and approve the accompanying required information.
- If the discovery is determined to be exceptional, the DCRS or CRS will provide sufficient information regarding the find, to the BLM, CPUC and project archaeologist. The discovery area will be flagged off and secured; no ground-disturbing activities will be allowed within the vicinity of the resource until all parties have consulted under the provisions provided in the HPMP (currently in review).

Paleontological Resources

Based on the Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (Plan; CH2MHill 2011), submitted to the CPUC on April 20, 2011, the potential to encounter paleontological resources within the Colorado River 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

Distribution Line Extension. According to the NTPR, extension of the distribution line to the CRS will occur along the edge of several parcels between the CRS and existing 33 kV distribution line to the north (approximately one-third mile south of I-10). The route of the distribution line extension spans both privately owned and BLM-owned lands. For the portions of the distribution line route on privately owned land, SCE would obtain a 10-foot-wide easement. For the portions of the route on BLM land, SCE would obtain a land grant from the BLM. As indicated in the Project Site and Access Mapbook and the NTPR, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the distribution line extension.

Northern Telecom Line. The Northern Telecom Line from the CRS would connect with the Buck Substation located to the north and east of the CRS. The route of this telecom line spans both privately owned and BLM-owned lands. According to the NTPR, the telecom line would be installed on the same new poles installed as part of the 33 kV distribution line extension. From the extension point, the

telecom line would then travel approximately 33,000 feet east on existing overhead poles that follow an existing access road that transitions to Blythe Way. At a point approximately 1,300 feet east of Citrus Drive, the telecom route would head north for about 2,400 feet on existing overhead structures (to cross I-10 to Hobson Way), and east on Hobson Way for about 9,400 feet on existing overhead structures to Buck Boulevard, where the line would head north and transition to an approximately 2,400-foot section of new underground conduit to the Buck Substation.

There could be sensitive receptors along the telecom route at its east end; however, the impacts of telecommunication facilities to support the 500 kV transmission line and the substation were evaluated in the DPV2 EIR/EIS. Facilities were defined in Section B.3.6 of the Final EIR/EIS. The specific types and locations of these facilities have been modified, as described in Section B.3.2 of the CRS Expansion SEIR (Telecommunications Facilities), but the types of facilities and construction methods would be similar to those originally described.

Access Road Improvements and New Access Driveway. According to the NTPR, improvements to the existing transmission line access road would occur between Wiley's Well Road and the existing DPV1 Tower M129-T1, north of the CRS. The access road is located between the DPV1 towers (south of the road) and an existing 220 kV transmission line to the north. A new section of access driveway between the existing access road (DPV1 Tower M129-T1) and the CRS (western wall) would also be created and improved. Numerous spur roads extend from the access road to the towers of the two existing parallel transmission lines. As indicated in the Project Site and Access Mapbook and the NTPR, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the access road.

Conditions of NTP Approval

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

1. All applicable project mitigation measures, APMs, 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.
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 L-1a, WR-1a, and WR-1b 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 unless otherwise authorized by USFWS and CDFG. 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. In compliance with conditions of the BO, a field contact representative (FCR) shall be designated and will be on site for all ground-disturbing activities in special-status species' habitat. The FCR will have the authority to halt all work activities that are not in compliance with the project's conservation measures and incidental take statement requirements.
7. SCE shall prepare and implement a Habitat Restoration/Compensation Plan (HRCP) to address temporary and permanent impacts to native vegetation communities and jurisdictional resources (in the absence of concurrence from CDFG that impact areas do not meet conditions for CDFG jurisdiction). Ground disturbing activities may commence prior to final CPUC-approval of this plan provided SCE demonstrates compliance with Mitigation Measures and conditions in the Final EIR/EIS and USFWS BO, respectively, regarding compensation ratios and the purchase of offsite mitigation lands.
8. SCE shall prepare and implement a Noxious Weed Control Plan that will specify the locations of existing weed populations and provide appropriate measures to control the introduction and spread of noxious weeds into the Project area. Ground disturbing activities may commence prior to final CPUC-approval of this plan provided SCE has completed preliminary baseline invasive and noxious weed inventories and implements standard weed control measures throughout the duration of construction activities, as identified in Mitigation Measure B-2b.
9. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status plants, cacti, and plant species covered under the California Desert Native Plant Act within fourteen (14) days prior to construction activities within 100 feet of ground disturbing activities. If listed and/or sensitive plants are identified and cannot be avoided, SCE shall be responsible for the translocation of plants and/or collection of seeds from existing populations that would be impacted and the planting/reseeding of these plants in adjacent suitable habitat that would not be affected by construction activities. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the CPUC EM shall review and approve the survey results, and avoidance and disturbance flagging.
10. SCE shall prepare and implement a Special-Status Plant Impact Avoidance and Minimization Plan. In the absence of a final approval of this plan by the CPUC, SCE shall implement measures that would minimize off-site impacts to Harwood's woollystar and Harwood's milk-vetch as defined under Mitigation Measure B-8b.
11. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife in any area subject to disturbance within fourteen (14) days of implementation of any Project activities. The location of sensitive species identified during the pre-construction surveys shall be provided on Project maps.
12. In compliance with Mitigation Measure B-5a, pre-construction surveys for breeding birds shall be conducted by a CPUC-approved biologist at least ten (10) days prior to construction (during nesting season) in areas within 500 feet of construction limits. If federally or State listed birds with active nests are identified, a qualified biological monitor shall establish a 500-foot buffer around the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails. A 300-foot buffer shall be implemented in the event that raptors or other species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are located. The biological monitor shall conduct regular monitoring of any identified nest to determine success/failure and to ensure that construction activities do not occur within established buffers until the nesting cycle is complete or the nest fails. There may be a reduction of these buffer zones depending on site-specific conditions

or the existing ambient level of activity. SCE shall coordinate with CDFG and USFWS to determine the appropriate buffer zone.

13. Prior to ground-disturbing activities, SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owl within all potential impact areas. Any burrowing owls occupying the Project area shall be evicted by passive relocation techniques as identified in Mitigation Measure B-9e.
14. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for Mojave fringe-toed lizard and other special-status reptiles within 48 hours prior to initiation of construction activities. If Mojave fringe-toed lizard is identified in the Project area during construction, all activities adjacent to the identified location shall be halted and the animal will be allowed to move away from the construction site. If the individual is not moving, a qualified biologist will relocate it to nearby suitable habitat (in the shade of a shrub) outside of the construction area.
15. SCE shall provide compensatory mitigation for Mojave fringe-toed lizard for any impacts to sand dune habitat. Construction activities may commence prior to requirements defined under Mitigation Measure B-9j provided SCE demonstrates to the CPUC that compensation funding through Wildlands LLC.
16. In compliance with Mitigation Measure B-7b (rev) and conditions of the BO, pre-construction desert tortoise clearance surveys shall be conducted by a CPUC, CDFG, and USFWS Authorized Biologist immediately prior to construction activities within a 100 percent coverage area of all desert tortoise habitat (modeled, critical, and/or occupied habitat) that will be subject to temporary and permanent project disturbance. Surveys, tortoise handling, burrow excavation, and relocation will follow procedures outlined in the BO.
17. As part of the Project WEAP training defined under Condition #4 above, a qualified tortoise biologist shall present a class or briefing to construction workers that addresses, at a minimum, desert tortoise sensitivity to human disturbance, daily and seasonal activity patterns, and proper handling protocols.
18. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities within modeled/critical/occupied habitat for desert tortoise, SCE shall provide documentation that ensures funding to complete required mitigation, including acquisition of lands, monitoring, and reporting activities for impacts to desert tortoise and/or desert tortoise habitat. SCE shall provide to the CPUC, CDFG, and USFWS no later than thirty (30) days prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities at applicable locations, an irrevocable letter of credit or other form of security approved by CDFG's Office of the General Counsel.
19. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for American badger and desert kit fox prior to ground-disturbing activities in areas that support potential habitat for these species. If occupied dens are identified in the Project area, SCE shall consult with CDFG for further action. Unoccupied dens located in the Project area shall be covered to prevent animals from re-occupying the den prior to construction. Badger and kit fox dens located outside the Project area shall be flagged for avoidance.
20. SCE shall conduct biological monitoring in all areas of disturbance during construction activities, including access roads. The biological monitor shall look for sensitive wildlife that may be located within or immediately adjacent to construction areas. If sensitive species are found, the biological monitor shall relocate in accordance to the appropriate Final EIR/EIS Mitigation Measures, APMs, and conditions of the USFWS BO.
21. SCE shall install the transmission and telecommunications line facilities utilizing the most current APLIC standards for collision-reducing techniques.

22. Project speed limits shall be posted and strictly adhered to in compliance with Mitigation Measures and APMs provided in the Final EIR/EIS and conditions of the USFWS BO.
23. Road construction shall avoid blading to the extent possible and shall be implemented through vegetation crushing. Required vehicles shall enter on one pathway which is flagged and developed only by the passage of vehicles crushing vegetation.
24. Constructed road berms in modeled, critical, and occupied desert tortoise habitat shall be less than 30.48 cm (12 in) in height and have slopes less than 30 degrees.
25. All auger holes, trenches, pits, or other steep-sided excavations that pose a hazard to wildlife will be securely fenced or covered when unattended to prevent accidental death or injury. At the start and end of each workday, and just before backfilling, all excavations will be inspected for trapped animals. If found, trapped animals will be removed by the Authorized or Qualified Biologist.
26. Road-killed animals or other carcasses detected within the Project area will be picked up and disposed of immediately (e.g. removal to a landfill or disposal at SCE facility). For any special-status species road-kill, the Qualified Biologist or FCR will contact CDFG and USFWS within 1 working day of receipt of the carcass for guidance on disposal or storage.
27. A trash collection system will be established to ensure that all food and other trash that could attract desert tortoise predators is properly disposed of in self-closing, sealable containers with lids that latch to prevent wind, common ravens, and mammals from opening containers. All trash containers will be regularly inspected and emptied to prevent spillage and maintain sanitary conditions, and removed from the Project footprint when construction activities are complete.
28. 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.
29. 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 shall be followed (1-Notification, 2-Avoidance and Continued Construction Activities, and 3-Determining Significance of a Discovered Paleontological Resource).
30. Sixteen cultural resources sites, within the Colorado River Substation Distribution Line, shall be flagged off with temporary orange fencing (t-post and orange mesh) and designated as ESAs. An archaeological monitor shall direct the construction contractor of where to install the fencing. The ESA installation shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. No activity will be permitted within established ESA. In addition, an archaeological and Native American monitor shall be present during all ground disturbing activities within 50-feet of the established ESA.
31. In accordance with Mitigation Measure C-1e (Monitor construction), resumes of the principal archaeologist and archaeological monitors shall be submitted to the BLM and CPUC for review and approval before monitoring may begin.
32. In the event that a cultural resource discovery is made during site development, the find shall be managed in compliance with the following procedures set forth in the Plan of Discovery for Cultural Resources During Construction-Related Activities at the Colorado River Substation:
 - Construction shall be halted within 200' of the discovery, and the Designated Cultural Resources Specialist (DCRS) shall be notified. A Cultural Resources Monitor (CRM) shall inspect the area for additional resources and shall notify the DCRS.

- If the discovery qualifies as an isolate that requires no avoidance (with the exception of human remains), the discovery shall be documented and reported in a cultural resources monitoring report.
 - The DCRS/CRS shall notify the BLM and CPUC of the find within 24 hours. Construction work may resume in the area when the BLM and CPUC receive notification of the discovery and approve the accompanying required information.
 - If the discovery is determined to be exceptional, the DCRS or CRS shall provide sufficient information regarding the find to the BLM, CPUC and project archaeologist. The discovery area shall be flagged off and secured; no ground-disturbing activities shall be allowed within the vicinity of the resource until all parties have consulted under the provisions provided in the HPMP (currently in review).
33. The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) shall be notified immediately of any unanticipated cultural, paleontological, or biological resource discoveries.
 34. 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.
 35. 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.
 36. In regard to the Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, to fully satisfy the intent of Mitigation Measure P-1b, documentation of training for personnel who would be working near or handling hazardous materials shall be submitted to the CPUC for review after completion of these training activities. Only trained personnel shall be allowed to work near or to handle hazardous materials.
 37. In accordance with Mitigation Measure P-1a, prior to project construction, documents prepared by the construction contractors should be submitted to the CPUC along with an acknowledgment that the SCE Certified Industrial Hygienist has reviewed and approved the documents to complete the submittals required for these measures. Documents that the construction contractor would be responsible for would include a hazardous materials inventory that will be used to prepare and/or modify the Hazardous Material Business Plan, documents providing SCE with the names and telephone numbers of persons responsible for the hazardous waste management, an Emergency Response Procedures document that follows SCE's emergency response procedures for the Project.
 38. 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.
 39. No clearing or disturbance to vegetation shall occur outside of approved work areas.
 40. 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.

DPV2 Project Notice to Proceed #6

October 17, 2011

Page 15

Sincerely,

Billie Blanchard

Billie Blanchard

CPUC Environmental Project Manager

Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project

cc: Mary Jo Borak, CPUC Supervisor
Holly Roberts, BLM Palm Spring South Coast Field Office
Allison Shaffer, BLM Palm Spring South Coast Field Office
Ysmael Wariner, BLM Palm Spring South Coast Field Office
Vida Strong, Aspen Environmental Group
Jamie Miner, Aspen Environmental Group
Hedy Koczwarra, Aspen Environmental Group
Ryana Parker, Southern California Edison Company
Sheree James, Southern California Edison Company