

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 3, 2012

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 (NTP #16)

Dear Ms. Benz:

On November 7, 2012, Southern California Edison (SCE) requested authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for installation of new fiber optic cables to provide diverse routing of telecommunications services for the new 500 kV transmission line as part of the Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project, as analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

NTP #16 is applicable to the entire Mirage fiber optic loop-in construction, including connection to the new optical groundwire (OPGW) at Tower 2130, underground conduit construction to connect to the new OPGW on new Devers-Mirage 220 kV towers (constructed under the separate Devers-Mirage Project) to the existing substation switchrack, underground conduit construction to the substation communications room and outside the west fence of the substation. All-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) fiber optic conductor will be installed along existing wood poles to the north, and underground conduit construction from the northern wood pole to the new Tower 2130 will form the loop. The Mirage loop-in will support the primary and backup protection circuits between the Devers Substation and Red Bluff Substation. The Mirage Substation is located north of E. Ramon Road and east of Vista De Oro Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Interstate 10, in the City of Thousand Palms. Additional information was provided by SCE on November 15, 2012.

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 Project on July 19, 2011. The BLM issued NTPs for construction of the Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and the overhead transmission line on its lands in September 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 CPUC also adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the DPV2 Project during implementation. The MMCRP also acknowledges that minor project refinements as a result of final engineering are anticipated and common practice for construction efforts of this scale and that a variance request would be required for any of these activities that would fall under this NTP. This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this NTP. The activities under this NTP are located within the geographic boundary of the study area of the Final EIR/EIS and Supplemental EIR, and have been analyzed therein. The activities approved under this NTP would not result in a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact based on the criteria used in the environmental documents; conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy; or trigger an additional permit requirement.

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 #16 for the Mirage loop-in 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 NTPR dated November 7, 2012 are presented as follows (indented).

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND CONDITIONS

The Mirage Substation is located within the Thousand Palms United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic quadrangle. The coordinates for the approximate center of the site are Latitude 33°49'5" N, Longitude 116°22'6" W. The Substation is located north of E. Ramon Road and east of Vista De Oro Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Interstate 10, in the City of Thousand Palms.

Temporary access to the interior substation site work will be from the main entrance gate off Ramon Road, which is paved. Access to the work site outside the substation fence will also be from paved Ramon Road, along Vista De Oro Road (dirt) and along Via Las Palmas Road, which is also paved, as shown in Figure 1 [in SCE's NTPR].

2.1 Mirage Substation Telecommunication Loop-In

The Mirage loop-in will support the primary and backup protection circuits for the new Devers Substation to Red Bluff Substation transmission line segment (see Project Site and Access Mapbook, Figures 2-36, 2-37, 2-37A, and 2-37B). OPGW from the Devers Substation to Series Capacitor Bank transmission line segment will drop to ground level at DCR tower number 2130. From the OPGW drop, the telecommunications line will extend in underground conduit for approximately 1,500 feet, to the south side of the DPV1 right-of-way, and transition overhead to OPGW installed as part of the Devers-Mirage Project (for which a separate NTP has been issued) to connect to an existing switchrack inside of the Mirage Substation. The OPGW will then drop to ground level and travel eastward within the substation approximately 1,000 feet in a combination of existing cable trench and new underground conduit, to the existing substation communications room. SONET and channel equipment will be installed within the communications room to support the primary and backup protection circuits. Additional underground conduit will be installed from the Mirage Substation communications room approximately 1,000' west to the substation fence and across to the west side of Vista De Oro Road. From there, the cable will rise on an existing wood pole and connect to new ADSS fiber optic cable that will be installed to the north on existing wood poles extending approximately 5,000 feet along Vista De Oro Road, then drop to into new underground conduit for approximately 850 feet, and then rise to connect to the new OPGW on DCR transmission line tower number 2130...

3.0 PROJECT COMPONENTS AND DISTURBANCE AREAS

This section describes the main project elements and disturbance areas associated with the Mirage loop-in. Construction operating hours within the substation 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 occur within close proximity to a residence or noise-sensitive receptor, construction work hours will occur from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, in compliance with the applicable noise ordinance, or a variance from the ordinance restrictions will 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.

The Mirage loop-in is shown in the Project Site and Access Map Book, Figures 2-36, 2-37, 2-37A, and 2-37B. New disturbance areas associated with the Mirage loop-in include:

- New Riser Poles – 0.0001 acre
- Temporary work areas associated with the riser pole - 0.0034 acre
- New Manholes - 0.0003 acre
- Temporary work areas associated with manhole construction – 0.0069 acre
- Underground conduit runs and trench work areas - 0.9422 acre
- Temporary work areas associated with pull sites and other work space – 0.4490
- Staging area(s) for material and equipment storage (existing substation storage area)

3.1 Site Work

The table below identifies the primary construction activities associated with the telecommunication loop-in improvements.

TELECOM LINE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
• Mobilization
• Installation of SWPPP BMPs for disturbance area protect
• Installation of riser poles, pull boxes, anchors, pole hardware, and wire
• Trenching to install underground sections of conduit and vaults

During construction of the loop-in, the site will be accessed from the main entrance gate off Ramon Road, which is paved. Access to the work sites outside the substation fence will also be from paved Ramon Road, to Vista De Oro Road (or) through Via Las Palmas Road, which is also paved, as shown in Figure 1. Figures 2-36, 2-37, 2-37A, and 2-37B in Appendix A identify additional access roads that could also possibly be used during construction. Equipment and vehicles used to install the wood poles and fiber optic cable may utilize drive and crush methods off of Via Las Palmas Road and the dirt road during the installation of risers and stringing of OPGW, however the majority of the work will be conducted from the existing disturbed roadways. Following installation of the new risers, pole hardware would be installed and the cable would be strung (either from existing roads or minimal drive and crush areas if necessary). Material and equipment would be staged at existing storage areas within the substation or other DPV2 approved disturbed location(s) to be identified by the Contractor. In addition, water sources for dust control may include existing substation hydrants or other sources that have been approved for DPV2 construction.

4.0 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The anticipated activity schedule for the Mirage Loop-in construction activities is shown in the table below.

Construction Schedule – Mirage Substation Telecom Loop-in		
Construction Activity	Construction Duration	Start Date
Telecommunications Line Installation	Approximately 3 months	November 2012

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 Compliance Status Table in SCE’s NTPR provides pre-construction compliance information for the other issue areas addressed by the DPV2 EIR/EIS.

Following the discussion of biological, cultural, paleontological resources, and land use/sensitive receptors, a list of numbered 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 Mirage loop-in line within private lands. This summary of biological resources is based on information provided in SCE’s *Draft Notice to Proceed Request for Mirage Substation Telecommunication Loop-ins* (NTPR)

(November 2012) and a field verification study conducted on November 20, 2012 by Aspen Environmental Group.

Construction activities associated with the installation of the new telecommunications line would be located in the area north of E. Ramon Road and east of Vista De Oro Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Interstate 10, in the City of Thousand Palms. Temporary access to the interior substation site work will be from the main entrance gate off Ramon Road, which is paved. Access to the work site outside the substation fence will also be from paved Ramon Road, along Vista De Oro Road (dirt) and along Via Las Palmas Road, which is also paved. According to SCE's NTPR, the majority of the area is characterized by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) scrub vegetation community, disturbed, and developed land cover. In the northern portion of the site there are areas of cheesebush scrub, and creosote bush-white bursage scrub with a small erosional feature west of the existing substation.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO), which includes all activities associated with the components of this NTP, was issued on January 11, 2011 for the DPV2 Project. Subsequently, the 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 Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) included as part of project development, a Qualified Biologist(s) shall conduct the appropriate pre-construction surveys for special-status species prior to any ground disturbing activities and shall be present, where required, throughout the duration of all construction activities associated with the components of this NTP. Additionally, SCE shall implement all other applicable conditions of the USFWS BO, the 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. According to SCE's NTPR, focused surveys and habitat assessments for the vicinity of the Mirage Substation telecommunication loop-in were conducted by EPG (2007), GANDA (2011), and CH2M Hill (2012c). During the August 2012 surveys, no special-status plant species were observed within the survey area, but the site contains modeled habitat for the Coachella Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), as defined by the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. No plants were in identifiable condition during the survey due to the late season timing of the survey. However, the site contains suitable habitat for the species and would result in 0.06 acre of temporary impacts to modeled habitat. This species is known to occur in close proximity to the site. As a result, it was determined that the proposed site has a high potential to support Coachella Valley milk-vetch.

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 implementation of the CPUC-approved Special-Status Plant Impact Minimization and Avoidance and Special-Status Plant Avoidance Plans developed for the project. Additionally, any special-status plant species that meet specific criteria shall be flagged for avoidance and relocated in accordance with the project's CPUC-approved Transplant Plan.

Special-status wildlife. According to SCE's NTPR, no special-status wildlife species were detected within the project area. However, the entire site occurs within critical habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*; CVFTL), as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and project activities would result in 0.45 acre of temporary impacts to critical habitat. According to SCE's NTPR, the project area lacks critical habitat features, specifically blow sand dunes, that are a dominate characteristic of suitable CVFTL habitat.

Marginally suitable habitat for flat-tailed horned lizards (*Phrynosoma mcallii*; FTHL) is present in the survey area based on the presence of sandy substrates and 0.06 acre of modeled habitat would be temporarily impacted. However, the absence of characteristic habitat results in a low potential for this species to occur onsite. Further, no live CVFTL or FTHL were observed during the site surveys and the disturbance areas associated with the loop-in activities would occur within developed or disturbed land covers not suitable for these species. Regardless, a CVFTL/FTHL Qualified Biologist will conduct clearance surveys prior to ground disturbing activities and a monitor will be present during all phases of construction.

Jurisdictional waters. There are no jurisdictional waters within the project area defined in this NTPR.

Vegetation management. According to SCE's NTPR, the project components identified in this NTP are expected to result in a total of 1.40 acres of permanent and temporary impacts. 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 components of this NTP. All work shall be strictly limited to defined boundaries. All material and equipment to be used in connection with activities covered under this NTP shall be stored and maintained at existing CPUC-approved yards/facilities. 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 for the project by the CPUC would require approval.

SCE is currently developing a Habitat Compensation and Restoration Plan (HCRP) to address compensation and restoration 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 while the compensation component addresses the purchase of offsite mitigation lands to mitigate for permanent impacts. As such, SCE will be allowed to commence ground-disturbing activities covered under this NTP on non-BLM lands prior to final agency 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 regarding the purchase of offsite mitigation lands for permanent impacts to native vegetation communities. 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 will be located so as to avoid sensitive plants or plant communities. Whenever possible, temporary disturbance areas shall be recontoured and restored in compliance with the project's Draft HCRP.

Cultural Resources

The Final Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Project was accepted on October 20, 2011. Based on background research and survey, no cultural resources were identified within or near the Mirage Substation and proposed telecommunication loop-ins.

In the event that an unanticipated discovery of cultural materials is made along the loop-in, the find shall be managed in compliance with the following procedures provided in Section 4.4 - Plan of Discovery of Cultural Resources of the approved HPMP as itemized below:

- All work within 200 feet of the discovery will be halted and the onsite Archaeological Field Monitor will evaluate the discovery.
- The Environmental Monitor will notify the Lead Archaeological Monitor, Consultant Project Manager (CPM), Work Package Archaeologist(s) (WPA), or SCE Archaeologist (in that order) immediately.
- Activities within 200 feet of the discovery will not resume until the discovery has been assessed by a member of the Cultural Resources Team.

Paleontological Resources

Based on the Paleontological Monitoring and Treatment Plan, submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission on April 20, 2011, the potential to encounter paleontological resources within the identified Mirage Substation area is low. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan, low sensitivity units must be monitored intermittently, to verify the low sensitivity classification, as determined by the Paleontological Resource Specialist.

In the event that a paleontological resource discovery is made during site expansion, all construction activities in the area of the discovery must cease, and the Discovery of Fossils protocol, as specified in the Plan must 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 construction activities for under this NTP will occur in the area north of E. Ramon Road and east of Vista De Oro Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Interstate 10, in the City of Thousand Palms. Temporary access to the interior substation site work will be from the main entrance gate off Ramon Road, which is paved. Access to the work site outside the substation fence will also be from paved Ramon Road, along Vista De Oro Road (dirt) and along Via Las Palmas Road, which is also paved. Residences are located within the project area between Tower 2130 and Mirage Substation. Construction activities will occur over approximately three months beginning in late fall 2012 and were addressed in the DPV2 Final EIR/EIS. All residences will be notified of construction per the approved Construction Notification Plan as required in Mitigation Measure L-1a.

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. Please see the table of pre-construction requirements in SCE's NTPR. Bulleted items can be found below which provide additional information and clarifications to outstanding requirements.
2. Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, 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. 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. Any "Drive and crush" areas to be utilized for accessing sites must be clearly staked and flagged in the field. These areas must be included in the biological constraint maps and provided to the CPUC EM for validation prior to use.
7. The Final HRCR is currently being finalized and SCE shall implement the conditions of the approved Final HRCR to compensate for temporary disturbance to native vegetation communities. If the HRCR is not finalized by SCE and approved by CPUC by January 31, 2013, all activities under NTP #16 shall cease immediately.
8. SCE shall implement all conditions of the Final Noxious Weed Control Plan which specifies the locations of existing weed populations and provides appropriate measures to control the introduction and spread of noxious weeds into the Project area, worker training, specifications, and inspection procedures for construction materials and equipment used in the Project area.
9. Prior to entering the work area for the first time, all ground-disturbing equipment shall be thoroughly cleaned at an approved wash station, or other location with CPUC approval.
10. All seeds, straw wattles, gravel and fill material used during construction shall be certified weed free by the local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
11. 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 area flagging.
12. To the extent possible, all construction activities in Coachella Valley milk-vetch modeled habitat will be conducted outside of the seed germination and growing season, generally January to May. If construction activities are required during that period, a qualified biologist/botanist shall conduct pre-construction focused winter (generally January and February) surveys for Coachella Valley milk-vetch in areas of the project that support modeled habitat for this species prior to ground disturbance. Any milk-vetch locations identified during surveys shall be delineated on aerial photographs, incorporated into the project construction management plans, and avoided to the maximum extent possible. Where avoidance is not possible, SCE shall implement measures outlined in the USFWS approved Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch Salvage Plan.

13. Prior to ground-disturbing activities, SCE shall provide documentation that ensures funding applicable to the requirements outlined for impacts to modeled habitat for Coachella Valley milk-vetch under Condition #26 of the USFWS BO.
14. SCE shall implement all conditions of the BLM and CPUC approved Transplanting Plan that provides details on the plants being transplanted, including which species and how many of each individuals of each species; where the plants will be transplanted; how the plants will be transplanted; how the plants will be maintained during the transplanting efforts; and, if the plants will be used to re-vegetated disturbed areas of construction sites.
15. All plants that are subject to transplanting shall be clearly marked for avoidance (using bright colored flagging) prior to construction activities. For listed plants, SCE shall identify if the plants can be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, SCE shall purchase offsite mitigation in coordination with the USFWS and CDFG. If avoidance is not feasible for non-listed special-status plants, SCE shall implement measures outlined in the CPUC approved Final Special-Status Plant Impact Avoidance and Minimization Plan.
16. SCE shall prepare and submit a Sensitive Plant Salvage Plan to the CPUC. This plan shall require CPUC approval prior to any ground disturbing activities that result in impacts to special-status plants, including those designated as CNPS List 1B species. The plan shall include methods to reduce impacts to these species, should they occur, including, but not limited to, seed collection and topsoil salvage techniques. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife in accordance with specific conditions provided in Final EIS/EIR Mitigation Measures and conditions of the USFWS BO. The location of sensitive species identified during the pre-construction surveys shall be provided to the BLM and CPUC on updated project maps.
17. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife in accordance with specific conditions provided in Final EIS/EIR Mitigation Measures and conditions of the USFWS BO. The location of sensitive species identified during the pre-construction surveys shall be provided to the BLM and CPUC on updated project maps.
18. Pre-construction surveys for breeding birds shall be conducted within 500 feet of disturbance limits by a CPUC-approved biologist at least fourteen (14) days prior to construction during the appropriate season. 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.
19. SCE shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status reptiles within 48 hours prior to initiation of construction activities. If special-status reptiles are 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.
20. At least 60 days prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities, SCE will designate a field contact representative (FCR) who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with project specifications and all conservation measures outlined in this biological/conference opinion.

21. A Qualified Biologist shall conduct pre-construction clearance surveys within modeled/blow sand habitat for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard immediately prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities during the active season (between April and May, and inclusive of both months). The Qualified Biologist shall be present during all construction activities in these areas. If fringe-toed or flat-tailed horned lizards are identified, the Qualified Biologist will capture and relocate any individuals to the nearest suitable modeled/blowsand habitat outside of the project ROW.
22. Per CM-27 of the USFWS BO, to the extent possible, all construction activities within modeled/blow sand habitat will be conducted during the active season, between April and October (inclusive of both months). Construction activities in modeled/blow sand habitat may be extended beyond the active season if exclusionary fencing is installed during the active season.
23. SCE shall avoid construction activities that would tend to create wind barriers that might result in sand stabilization in Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard habitat.
24. SCE shall conduct biological monitoring in all areas of disturbance during construction activities, including access roads. The biological monitor shall look for special-status wildlife that may be located within or immediately adjacent to construction areas. If special-status species are found, the biological monitor shall avoid or relocate in accordance to the appropriate Final EIR/EIS Mitigation Measures, APMs, and conditions of the USFWS BO.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. Project personnel will not be allowed to bring pets into any work areas.
28. Immediately after completion of construction activities, the FCR or designated representative will record the perimeter of the post-construction project footprint, including all tower pads, spur roads, pulling and splicing stations and access routes, and other project-related infrastructure in a GIS-compatible format to verify the extent of project disturbance. The GIS coverage layer will be provided to the BLM, Service, and CDFG within 90 days of completing construction; the coverage will be compared to impact acreages estimated in this biological/conference opinion to determine final ground-disturbance associated with project construction.
29. Following completion of construction, SCE will remove all exclusionary fencing for the DPV2 Project and recontour soils to pre-construction conditions.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. No clearing or disturbance to vegetation shall occur outside of approved work areas.

33. If construction debris or spills enter into environmentally sensitive areas, appropriate jurisdictional agencies and the CPUC EM shall be notified immediately.
34. In the event that an unanticipated discovery of cultural materials is made during construction of the Devers Substation upgrades and expansion, the find shall be managed in compliance with the following procedures provided in Section 4.4 - Plan of Discovery of Cultural Resources of the approved HPMP as itemized below:
 - All work within 200 feet of the discovery shall be halted and the onsite Archaeological Field Monitor shall evaluate the discovery.
 - The Environmental Monitor shall notify the Lead Archaeological Monitor, Consultant Project Manager (CPM), Work Package Archaeologist(s) (WPA), or SCE Archaeologist (in that order) immediately.
 - Activities within 200 feet of the discovery shall not resume until the discovery has been assessed by a member of the Cultural Resources Team.
35. 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.
36. In the event that a paleontological resource discovery is made during site expansion, all construction activities in the area of the discovery shall 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).
37. The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) shall be notified immediately of any unanticipated cultural, paleontological, or biological resource discoveries.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. In accordance with Mitigation Measure P-1a(rev), 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Billie Blanchard

DPV2 Project Notice to Proceed #16

December 3, 2012

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Billie Blanchard

CPUC Environmental Project Manager

Devers-Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Project

cc: Holly Roberts, BLM Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Ysmael Wariner, BLM Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Moselle DiPane, BLM Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Helen Meier, BLM Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Sheree James, Southern California Edison Company
Chee Lieu, Southern California Edison Company
Ryana Parker, Southern California Edison Company
Vida Strong, Aspen Environmental Group
Jamie Miner, Aspen Environmental Group
Rosina Goodman, Aspen Environmental Group
Ryann Loomis, Aspen Environmental Group
Hedy Koczwarra, Aspen Environmental Group
Liz Majchrowicz, DNL Environmental