STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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OCT 08 2007
BY:

October 5, 2007

John Boccio/George Farra
California Public Utilities Commission/Angeles National Forest
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Notice of Preparation for a
Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the
Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Boccio and Mr. Farra:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7, has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Southern California Edison (SCE), with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) as the Lead agencies, proposes to construct, use and maintain a series of new and upgraded high-voltage electric transmission lines and substations to deliver electricity generated from wind energy projects in Kern County. The project is separated into eight segments starting from the new Whirlwind Substation in Kern County, continuing through Los Angeles County and ending in Riverside County.

District 7 is responsible for 42 freeways and highways in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Tehachapi Project, as shown on Figure 1 of the NOP, intersects many of those routes. Our department is concerned of the impacts to the various state routes at those locations where the project crosses Caltrans right-of-way.

The Lead agencies should identify any potential adverse impacts to the state right-of-way, and coordinate with Caltrans as early as possible. Any road closures would need an encroachment permit through the Caltrans Office of Permits. Our agency is willing to work with the Lead agencies, and participate in identifying potential environmental impacts and measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

We are looking forward to continued dialogue and coordination with the Lead agencies on this project. Once the Draft EIR/EIS is prepared, please send two hard copies and, if available, one electronic copy to the address above.

If you have any questions, please contact Mine Struhl of my staff at (213) 897-5446, mine_struhl@dot.ca.gov, or myself at (213) 897-9116, carlos_montez@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carlos Montez
Senior Environmental Planner
Caltrans, Division of Environmetal Planning