

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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BOB HENDERSON
CHAIR
CITY OF WHITTIER

September 27, 2007

GLENN PARKER
VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC MEMBER
ORANGE COUNTY

Mr. John Boccio and Junaid Rahman, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

JOHN BEAUMAN
CITY OF BREA

HOWARD VIPPERMAN
CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

City of Chino Hills Protest Against the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

JACK TANAKA
CITY OF DIAMOND BAR

Dear Mr. Boccio and Mr. Rahman:

GARY WATTS
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

MICHAEL HUGHES
PUBLIC MEMBER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ELIZABETH CHEADLE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

DICKIE SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) has reviewed the Protest of the City of Chino Hills to Southern California Edison's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Regarding Segments 4 Through 11 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Protest). The Protest describes Southern California Edison's (SCE) failure to adequately consider two alternate routes, through the Cajon Pass and Chino Hills State Park (Segment 8A). WCCA is primarily concerned with the Protest's support and recommendation of further consideration of Segment 8A through Chino Hills State Park.

WCCA was created for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Whittier-Puente-Chino Hills and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. The wildlife corridor serves wildlife migration and also functions as an essential environmental, scientific, educational, and recreational resource which should be held in trust for present and future generations.

Alternative Routing Through Chino Hills State Park

WCCA strongly disagrees with the Protest's recommendation of the alternate route for Segment 8A through Chino Hills State Park. The Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) specifically states the advantages and disadvantages of routing Segment 8A through Chino Hills State Park. The PEA found that there are no advantages of routing Segment 8A through Chino Hills State Park, and that it does not meet SCE's Objectives 7, 8, and 9. The Protest states that the proposed route through the City of Chino Hills will necessitate significant disturbance to residential property in Chino Hills that cannot be adequately mitigated. The Protest also states that there will be significant impacts to residents of Chino Hills that cannot be mitigated.

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According to the PEA, portions of the existing right of way in the park would need to be widened under this alternative. According to the PEA (p. 2-75), with establishment of new access and spur roads associated with the widening of the right of way, it is anticipated that there would be greater environmental impacts in undeveloped areas of the park for Segment 8A, compared to the retained alternative.

The Chino Hills State Park is part of the 31 miles that make up the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor (Corridor). The Corridor connects the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County and beyond to Puente Hills in Los Angeles County. The approximately 13,000-acres that make up Chino Hills State Park is the anchor habitat for the Corridor. Significant expenditures of public funds were used to establish this park. The potential impacts from routing Segment 8A through the park would potentially destroy undisturbed wildlife habitat essential to the efficacy of the Corridor. **This would cause permanent fragmentation to park resources by the construction of new towers, roads, etc. and ongoing degradation from maintenance activities and emergencies.** WCCA supports SCE's decision eliminating the alternative of Segment 8A through Chino Hills State Park as stated in the PEA.

In addition to preserving a key wildlife linkage, Chino Hills State Park serves a wider community consisting of denizens from San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and Los Angeles counties. The potential unmitigable impacts to our natural resources will negatively affect both people and wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments towards the Protest. Please provide any future public review documents regarding the Protest and the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project to our staff for review. Please direct any correspondence and questions to Judi Tamasi at the above address and by phone at (310) 589-3230, ext. 121.

Sincerely,

Bob Henderson
Chairperson

cc: Southern California Edison (Richard Meza)
City of Chino Hills (City Attorney)