REPORT

DATE: July 12, 2007

TO: Regional Council
Energy and Environment Committee

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SUBJECT: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Support the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project.

BACKGROUND:
On April 24, 2007, a representative from Southern California Edison (SCE) presented information on the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) to the Energy Working Group for review and comment. The proposed project would interconnect renewable wind power to Southern California with new and upgraded facilities between eastern Kern County and the City of Ontario in San Bernardino County. Energy developers are planning new wind farms in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area in Kern County. Although SCE does not own the proposed wind farms, it is required to construct extensions of its transmission system to them so that wind power can be delivered to the state's energy grid. In order to increase its ability to deliver this renewable wind energy to customers, SCE must upgrade its transmission lines and substations south of the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area by constructing the TRTP. The majority of the project would be constructed in existing rights-of-way, replacing or upgrading existing SCE facilities.

As identified during the Energy Working Group, the TRTP is generally supportive of the preliminary Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) goal to increase the share of renewables in the region's energy mix. Furthermore, the region's demand for energy, including renewable energy produced from wind, continues to grow. The TRTP would help meet California's renewable portfolio standard that at least 20 percent of the electricity be produced by renewable resources by 2010. In addition, the TRTP would reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required in the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).

SCAG anticipates reviewing the project as part of our Intergovernmental Review responsibilities. The proposed project would be considered regionally significant per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15206) since it considers new or expanded electrical generating facilities and transmission lines. A number of policies in SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, and Compass Growth Vision would be applicable to the project. SCAG staff expects future environmental documentation for the TRTP to cite the appropriate SCAG policies and address the manner in which the project is consistent with applicable core policies or supportive of applicable ancillary policies.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Support of this transmission project will not result in a fiscal impact.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Reviewed by:

Division Manager

Reviewed by:

Department Director

Reviewed by:

Chief Financial Officer