

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment, 82 Fed. Reg. 22,016 (May 11, 2017)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of Southern California Edison (SCE), I am writing to express SCE's support for public lands in the state of California and the Company's support for the constituencies who worked hard to ensure protections for these special places, many of whom are our valued customers.

National monuments, parks, and other protected lands are deeply important to SCE's customers and the communities we serve. These protected lands provide conservation, recreation, and in some cases, opportunities for infrastructure and other economic activities. SCE recognizes that these special places help define California as an iconic place to live, work, visit, and play.

SCE has a long history of managing lands and waters in a responsible and environmentally sensitive manner, and we support the establishment of national monuments subject to the following key principles:

- The establishment of national monuments should be subject to valid rights and should not restrict the use of existing utility rights-of-way or corridors within the monuments, including the siting and construction of new utility facilities consistent with the proper care and management of the objects of historic and scientific interest located within the monument. Additionally, the establishment of national monuments should not be construed to interfere with the operation, maintenance, replacement, modification, improvement, or upgrade of utility facilities that are located within the monuments.
- A collaborative process should be established to provide the utilities the opportunity to participate on appropriate advisory committees and/or panels formed in support of the management of the monuments.

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Page 2 of 2

SCE supports the application of these principles to all water and linear infrastructure projects that of necessity must be located within or traverse monument lands, and more broadly, the continued multiple use of monument lands by all parties according to the policies of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), so long as such uses are consistent with the proper care and management of identified objects.

Because SCE's service area traverses unique and sensitive habitat, we recognize that our company has an obligation to protect these resources while performing operations and providing reliable service to our customers. Establishment of national monuments subject to the aforementioned principles can ensure that important lands are protected in a manner that allows the utilities to continue to safely provide reliable power to our customers.

With this in mind, SCE supports our customers' access to the outdoors through protected places in California like the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, San Gabriel Mountains, and other beloved national monuments, either because such monument designations contain specific language consistent with our need to site and maintain utility infrastructure within them, or because the specified land reservations did not affect our existing uses, allowing us to co-exist.

Thank you for your consideration of SCE's views and please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Choi', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Choi
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Edison