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PROJECT MEMORANDUM

ANTELOPE PARDEE PROJECT, SEGMENT 1

To: John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC
Marian Kadota, Project Manager, ANF
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 1, 2008
Subject: Weekly Report #15, April 20-April 26, 2008

The Antelope-Pardee Project, Segment 1, is comprised of three sections:

- Section 1: Pardee Substation to the ANF boundary.
- Section 2: ANF
- Section 3: ANF Boundary to the Antelope Substation

During the subject week, construction activity continued under Notice to Proceed (NTP) #5 for the construction of the Shoofly in Section 1 and NTP #2 for construction of the Antelope Substation in Section 3. No work was conducted in Section 2, on the Angeles National Forest. Equipment, materials, and office trailers are being staged in the various approved construction yards.

SECTION 1, SHOOFLY

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter was onsite April 21st through the 26th.

Summary of Activity:

The Shoofly portion of the Antelope Pardee Transmission Line Project involves the installation of a temporary bypass line, or Shoofly, in order to maintain service along the existing Santa Clara-Vincent 220 kV transmission corridor. Construction of the Shoofly is taking place within an existing SCE transmission line right-of-way (ROW) in the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County and involves the construction of 18 new steel pole structures to hold the Shoofly line. The original lattice tower structures holding the line will later be replaced to accommodate construction of the new Antelope Pardee 500 kV structures within the Shoofly area. Construction activity under NTP #5 and Modification #1 to NTP #5 consisted of the following activities.

1. A 14-day outage on the Santa Clara-Vincent 220 kV line began on Monday of the subject week. PAR crews worked on removing the conductor spacers and hanging travelers to prepare for removing the conductor of this line parallel to the Shoofly section.
2. Work authorized under Variance Requests #2 and #3 in preparation for the 220 kV conductor removal occurred, including equipment mobilization to an expanded stringing sites and the placement of new guard pole structures. Under Variance Request #3, crews were authorized to work on the weekend.
3. Construction of the permanent 500 kV tower #25 (included in the Shoofly request) continued. Once the tower is completed, the tie in of the Shoofly line can occur, which is planned to take place during the current outage.
4. Road widening took place on the access roads leading to the Shoofly poles 1-3. Road widening up to 3 feet took place in order to accommodate large equipment to be used during the Shoofly tie-in. Project biologists cleared the areas for resources. A patch of Pierson's morning glory was noted to be within the road widening area, but could not be completely avoided.



5. Hauling of material from the permanent tower site 25 has been completed. At the request of the landowner, the material was deposited and formed into berms to block out views of the nearby trailer park since the property is used for movie filming purposes. Also at the landowner's request, the berms will be revegetated by the contractor. CDFG biologist Dan Blankenship has indicated that the City of Santa Clarita may be able to provide the contractor with an appropriate seed mix for this area to be revegetated.
6. During a field meeting on April 18th, the CPUC EM toured three of the 66 kV towers adjacent to the Shoofly slated for removal. SCE will be seeking authorization to remove the wire between the three towers during a scheduled outage on adjacent lines. According to PAR, the wire will be dropped on the ground and wound onto reels for recycling. This activity will be covered in the Section 1 NTP.
7. On April 11th, the CPUC EM toured areas of Section 1 which need major road improvements. In order for PAR to access the 500 kV and 220 kV tower sites with tower construction and dismantling equipment, some existing roads will need to be widened up to 15 feet. During this tour, the CPUC EM and the Burns and McDonnell biologist discovered a stick nest in Tower 29-3, which is slated for removal during the construction of Section 1.
8. Biological and paleontological monitoring of the Shoofly was conducted by Burns and McDonnell, LSA, BRC, and Cogstone during the subject week.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Because nesting bird surveys within a 500-foot buffer of project areas were not included in the original pre-construction biological survey report dated March 7, project biologists are conducting pre-construction biological sweep surveys (including a breeding bird survey within 500 feet) in advance of construction activity in order to comply with Mitigation Measure B-6 on the Shoofly. SCE's Biological Monitors are relying on construction personnel to give them advance notice when moving into a new area that has not been recently surveyed. Results of the construction sweeps are to be submitted to the CPUC on a weekly basis, per the NTP. Any new bird nest or other biological resources identified in the Shoofly should be updated to these resource maps and distributed to the monitoring team, CPUC, and CDFG as requested by Dan Blankenship (CDFG).
2. A red-tailed hawk nest was reported in existing Tower 27-1 (to be dismantled later in the project and replaced with a 500 kV tower 15). SCE's transmission line patrolman inspected the nest and found it to contain 2 eggs. SCE notified CDFG and USFWS, and explained that this nest, along with the Raven nest identified in the adjacent tower 16 (identified to Burns and McDonnell biologists March 18 by PAR personnel) would have to be removed to allow for Shoofly construction activities that need to take place during the current Santa Clara-Vincent 220 kV line outage. The SCE line patrolman also inspected the Raven nest and found it to contain 4 eggs. During a conference call on April 24th, permission to remove the eggs was received by CDFG with the understanding that the eggs would be transported to a raptor center in Ojai for incubation and then the chicks would be transplanted into local nests under the supervision of Peter Bloom, a raptor specialist contractor to SCE. SCE also provided consultation with USFWS on the nest removal. On Friday April 25th, the nest removals took place. SCE biologist Tracey Alsobrook, Dan Pearson (Burns and McDonnell), Dan Blankenship (CDFG), three project biological monitors, and several PAR employees along with the CPUC EM were present. SCE provided the line patrolman with a plastic clamshell type egg container, several small towels, and a backpack to put the eggs in while climbing down the towers. The eggs from the raven nest in tower 16 were placed into the plastic egg container, and the nest was removed from the tower. Any other nesting materials found in tower 16 was also removed at the time to discourage the birds from coming back to continue nesting (see Figure 1). The lineman delivered the raven eggs to SCE biologists and then climbed tower 27-1, and as they approached, the adult red-tailed hawk flew from the nest. The eggs were placed in the plastic egg container and placed in the backpack to

be transported to the ground. Upon inspection of the eggs, one egg had been cracked and was lodged in the plastic egg container (see Figure 2). The red-tailed hawk eggs were transported to the raptor center in the plastic container. After the nest removals were completed, the CPUC EM asked Burns and McDonnell whether project biologists would be actively monitoring the area for new nesting activity by the displaced birds in the area on towers with planned construction. Burns and McDonnell biologist explained that it was late in the nesting season and that they do not expect to find any new nests created by the displaced birds; however, that project biologists would look for new nesting activity nests in the area whenever the monitors were in the area.

3. Several other new bird nests were found within the Shoofly construction areas during the subject week. A western kingbird nest was found by PAR personnel in a tower which was partially under removal to accommodate the new tower 25. A goldfinch nest containing eggs was identified in the vegetation next to a wire stringing site nearby. Also found in the same stringing site, were three house finch nests found on bulldozers parked in the site. One of the nests contained eggs. SCE and Burns and McDonnell toured these areas with CDFG biologist Dan Blankenship to discuss reduction in the 300-foot protection buffers to allow construction activities to continue in these areas. A summary of the agreed discussions was provided to the CPUC.
4. Two mariposa lilies were identified by project biologists in the area of new construction tower 24. One of the plants was within the disturbance limits for construction and could not be avoided. Burns and McDonnell transplanted the lily to a nearby area in advance of ground disturbing activities. The other plant was flagged for avoidance (see Figure 3). It was reported to the CPUC EM to be a common type of lily with no protection status.
5. On April 23rd, Burns and McDonnell biologists notified the CPUC EM that two stick nests were found in wreck out towers within Section 1 (not part of the Shoofly, but expected to be the next phase of construction once the NTP is issued by the CPUC). SCE line patrolman has confirmed that one of the nests contains both raven eggs and chicks. One of these nests was the same nest observed by the CPUC EM and Burns and McDonnell biologist on April 11th.
6. Other nests previously identified in the Shoofly construction corridor are being monitored by Burns and McDonnell or biological subcontractors. During the subject week, the oriole nest adjacent to Shoofly pole 14 was confirmed to contain 4 eggs. The CPUC EM recommended that Burns and McDonnell initiate a 300-foot buffer or consult with CDFG if work needed to occur within 300 feet of the nest. Consultation took place and SCE provided CDFG recommendations to the CPUC EM. The following day, the project biologist informed the CPUC EM that the nest now contained 5 eggs. During discussions with CDFG and Burns and McDonnell management on Friday April 25th, the CPUC EM suggested that once nests in the project area are confirmed to be active, the monitors should avoid checking them on a daily basis to avoid disruption of the breeding birds. CDFG biologist agreed and that one a week nest checks would be adequate.
7. The CPUC EM toured several active construction yard sites during the subject week, including Upper and Lower Pumpkin yards, Pottery, Blue Cloud, Avenue I, and Antelope.
8. The CPUC EM toured the areas of Section 1 proposed for construction by SCE, after the biological survey report with updated survey results and associated maps were submitted to the CPUC on Friday, April 25th. Several inconsistencies were noted with the survey report during field verification by the CPUC EM, including the locations of wreck out towers containing nests, misidentification of project components on maps, and missing survey data for various resources. The CPUC has requested further information on the biological survey reports from SCE. Also requested, is information on how SCE plans to avoid active nests observed in towers in portions of Segment 1 within the Santa Clara–Vincent 220 kV and Saugus Del Sur 66 kV lines, both are planned for removal during Section 1 construction.

No CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda (PM) were issued during the subject week.

Agency Representatives:

CDFG Representative Dan Blankenship was on the project site April 22nd and 25th.

SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS

ANF Representatives: Marian Kadota

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter

Summary of Activity:

No construction activity took place on the ANF during the subject week.

Environmental Compliance:

No Non-Compliance Reports were issued by the ANF during the subject week.

No CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda (PM) were issued during the subject week.

SECTION 3, ANTELOPE SUBSTATION & ADJACENT YARDS

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter

The CPUC EM toured the Antelope Substation, adjacent yards, and expansion area on April 24th.

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC was notified during the conference call on April 24th that the land for the substation expansion area had been acquired by SCE and that crews were already working in the area. While touring the site, several birds nests were observed by the CPUC EM within the existing substation and within 300 feet of the planned site of grading activity. No biological clearance surveys have been submitted for the expansion work and grading of the site is expected to begin on May 5th. Currently, SCE crews are relocating wood pole lines within the expansion area.

CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPs) & ANF PERMITTING

On April 3rd, SCE submitted requests for construction of Section 1 and for a 12 kV distribution line relocation in Section 3. Project submittals still outstanding include disturbance area maps and updated biological resource survey information. Prior to construction, disturbance areas and access roads will have to be marked in the field and verified by the CPUC EM. Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed and ANF permitting activity for the Antelope-Pardee Project, Segment 1, to date.

TABLE 1
CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING
(Updated 05-01-08)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
CPUC NTPs			
#1	Oct 10, 2007	Oct 16, 2007	Mojave Marshalling Yard. Per the request, the yard will primarily be used to store construction equipment and materials for the project.
#2	Nov 16, 2007	Dec 10, 2007	Antelope Substation construction and expansion, as well as the use of two adjacent contractor laydown yards.
#2 Mod	Dec 21, 2007	Jan 2, 2008	Allow grading activity at the Antelope site/yards and replacement of an existing 80-foot microwave tower with a new 120-foot tower immediately outside of the communications room within the fenced area of the Antelope Substation.
#3	Jan 10, 2008	Jan 16, 2008	Use of five contractor laydown yards as named Pumpkin Yard, Pottery Yard, Pardee Substation Yard, Mechanics Yard and Avenue I Yard.
#4	Jan 29, 2008	Feb 4, 2008	Use of the Racetrack Marshalling Yard.
#5	Feb 19, 2008	Feb 28, 2008	Shoofly Construction, Section 1.
#5 Mod #1	March 11, 2008	March 19, 2008	Use of a new soil disposal site for the Shoofly construction, Section 1.
#5 Mod #2	March 24, 2008	March 26, 2008	Removal of the 66 kV conductor on the Del Sur-Saugus line during the outage scheduled for March 27, 2008.
#6	March 19, 2008	March 29, 2008 (Rodeo Yard not approved- pending further resource investigation)	Use of three additional construction yards, Rodeo, Blue Cloud, and Pumpkin expansion.
#7	April 3, 2008	Under review	Section 1 Construction.
#8	April 3, 2008	Under review	12 kV line relocation in Section 3.
ANF PERMITTING			
	Nov. 29, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	Radio Repeater – installation of a temporary radio repeater site on Sierra Pelona Ridge to provide communication during construction activities tied to the project. Improvement installation began Jan. 11
	Sept. 27, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	Geotechnical testing – 23 geotechnical borings are authorized on National Forest lands to provide additional information that will be used in the design of the transmission towers. Notice to proceed was signed Jan 31 to begin work the week of Feb. 3

VARIANCE REQUESTS

Variance Request #3 was submitted to the CPUC on April 24th for weekend work along the Shoofly and at the Antelope Substation. Variance Requests submitted to date are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1
 (Updated 05-01-08)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
VR #1	April 1, 2008	April 3, 2008	Change in construction of a overland travel road to Shoofly pole 18, to a temporary road construction method.
VR #2	April 18, 2008	April 19, 2008	Several expanded stringing sites, new staging areas, and guard pole installation sites for the removal of the 220 kV line.
VR #3	April 24, 2008	April 25, 2008	Weekend work along the Shoofly portion of Section 1, within the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County, and at the Antelope Substation, Avenue J, in the City of Lancaster.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS - SHOOFLY



Figure 1: The raven eggs collected from a nest in Tower 16. These eggs were transported to a raptor center in Ojai.



Figure 2: One of the red-tailed hawk eggs was damaged and was stuck in the egg container. Both eggs were taken to the raptor center in Ojai for incubation.



Figure 3: Red and white striped flagging delineates Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), like the one shown around a mariposa lily adjacent to tower 24.