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# PROJECT MEMORANDUM DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT

To: Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: February 4, 2016

Subject: Monitoring Report #56 – January 25 to January 31, 2016

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Southern California Edison (SCE) Downs Substation Expansion Project.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction and Minor Project Change (MPC) activities are provided in Tables 1 and 2, respectively (below).

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** David DuBois was on site January 25, 2016.

Work Schedule: Work occurred Monday through Friday during subject period.

## **CPUC NTPs**

# **#1 Downs Substation Expansion Site**

NTP #1 was issued on October 22, 2014 for the site preparation, grading, and construction of the Downs Substation expansion, adjacent to the existing Downs Substation on the corner of South Downs Street and West Ridgecrest Boulevard in Ridgecrest. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

- 1. Removal and modification work continued on components of the original Downs Substation (see Figures 1, 2 & 3). Crews trenched conduit, dismantled old 33 kV structures, and swapped old components for new ones. This work will continue over the coming weeks.
- 2. Materials continue to be stored onsite (see Figure 4).
- 3. The substation expansion area is approximately 97% complete, with some limited work remaining
- 4. The expanded Downs Substation became operational December 3, 2015.
- 5. 115 kV transformer banks in the expansion area were energized on January 15, 2016.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. Landscaping was reviewed by the CPUC EM to confirm conformance with the approved Landscape Plan for the Downs Substation 115 kV Expansion; three Mexican fan palms still need to be planted in the northwest corner of the expansion area outside the fence.
- 2. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Best Management Practices (SWPPP BMPs) were followed appropriately during the subject period.
- 3. Work areas were clean and free of trash
- 4. No track-out was observed during the subject period (see Figure 5).
- 5. No dust issues were observed during the subject period.

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6. Desert tortoise fencing was appropriately installed during fence installation work. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.

## **#2 Linear Portion**

NTP #2 was issued on February 20, 2015 for the linear portion of the Project which includes 115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. Overhead fiber optic work was completed on September 29, 2016.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, SCE requested that the deadline for submitting the final technical report, concerning paleontological monitoring for the project, be extended to December 21, 2015 to allow for the inclusion of radiocarbon dating results. The extension request was approved. On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Paleontological Resources Monitoring Final Report was submitted to the CPUC. The CPUC provided a detailed review of the report, with recommended corrections, to SCE on January 13, 2016.

## **Notices to Proceed**

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Table 1
Notices to Proceed (NTPs)
(Updated 02/04/16)

NTP	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	09/04/14	10/22/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Site preparation/grading, installation of substation components in the expanded Down's Substation footprint.
NTP #2	01/27/15	02/20/15	Remainder of the Project	115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades.

# **Minor Project Changes**

Table 2 summarizes the Minor Project Changes for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Table 2
Minor Project Changes (MPCs)
(Updated 02/04/16)

MPC	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
MPC #1	12/05/14	12/15/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Requests the use of an existing dirt roadway that connects the southwest corner of the work area to Church Avenue.
MPC #2	05/20/15	05/26/15	Downs Substation Expansion	Installation of privacy slats on all chain link fencing encompassing the perimeter of the Downs Substation, including the expansion area.

# **PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS**



Figure 1 – Crews were upgrading existing structures during the subject period. View east, 1/25/16.



Figure 2 – Crews dismantle old 33 kV structures during the subject period. View east 01/25/16.



Figure 3 – Crews dismantle old 33 kV structures during the subject period. View northwest 01/25/16.



Figure 4 – Equipment and materials remain stored onsite. View north 01/25/16.



Figure 5 – Gravel apron is installed at the substation entrance to help minimize track out. View north 01/25/16.