



5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, www.aspeneg.com

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

To: Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 26, 2012
Subject: Weekly Report 29, January 30 to February 5, 2012

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line and Red Bluff Substation Projects. This report is organized as follows:

- Transmission Line Construction
- Substation Construction and Upgrades
- Construction Yards and Other Workspaces

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Additionally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) and non-compliance activities are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM): Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) to Red Bluff Substation
 - Site verification surveys and/or staking activities occurred at Towers 2568 through 2577, 2600 through 2634, CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-2W and CR1-3W, and Red Bluff Loop-In Tower RB1-1W. Additional staking activities were conducted for the new access road between CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-3E to CR1-5E.
 - BMPs were installed along the new access road between CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-3E and CR1-5E and maintained at Towers 2649 and 2650 (see Figure 1).
 - Vegetation clearing was conducted at CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E and the associated access road between these locations (see Figure 2).
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
 - No major construction activities occurred along this segment of the project during the subject period.
3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation
 - Vegetation clearing or trimming, and BMP installation occurred at Towers 1019, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1051, 1052, 1053, and 1054 (see Figure 3).
 - Grading of spur roads and crane pads occurred at Towers 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1057, and 1058 (see Figure 4).



Environmental Compliance

- Fugitive dust control was noted by SCE general and biological monitors at all construction sites and access roads. CPUC EM's also observed adequate dust control at all construction sites and access roads.
- Biological and Archaeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- Approved monitors for Coachella Valley milk-vetch were onsite for all ground disturbing activities at applicable tower sites and completed clearance surveys before construction occurred.
- A contractor vehicle was backing up an access road from Tower 1027 and got stuck in the sand multiple times. The incident occurred when the truck was stuck and the crew was trying to get the vehicle moving again. The vehicle was pushed by the sand outside of the right-of-way (ROW). The vehicle was immediately stopped by the onsite biological monitor and returned to the ROW. No resources were impacted.
- A burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) was observed within 100 feet of the access road to Tower 1012. The owl was located at a burrow and pellets were observed. An Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) buffer was established at the site.
- A burrowing owl was observed at Tower 1019 during a biological sweep of the site before construction occurred for the day. The monitors rerouted a grading crew to a new location and established an ESA buffer for the site (see Figure 5).
- Four California legless lizards (*Anniella pulchra*) were killed during grading activities. Onsite biological monitors took the animals outside of the disturbance areas and buried them.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Transmission Line activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):

None.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES

Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – BMPs were installed along the east end of the CRS access road. Vegetation clearing and grading activities continued along the CRS access road. Vegetation clearing and soil scarification activities were conducted beginning in the northeast corner of the substation disturbance limits (see Figure 6). Activities associated with the installation of culverts along the CRS access road were conducted (see Figure 7). A small crew installed an electric box and distribution pole within the substation limits on February 2. Activities associated with the southern laydown yard, including chain link fence installation and BMP installation and gravel placement, were completed during the subject period (see Figure 8).
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – No construction activities associated with the CRS telecomm line occurred during the subject period.
3. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – Soil scarification was initiated on February 2 to minimize pooling effects from surface water releases. Well development continued throughout the subject period and consisted of “swabbing” the well. BMP maintenance activities occurred throughout the subject period.

Environmental Compliance

1. SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
2. ESA signs and flagging were installed to protect an active red-tailed hawk nest at existing DPV1 Tower 127-2 along the CRS access road. Construction crews continued grading the access road on each side of the ESA buffer, but access was restricted within the buffer limits.
3. Three separate isolated cultural finds were identified by SCE Monitors on CRS on January 31. Immediately after each of these discoveries, the SCE Archeological Monitor notified the equipment operators and asked that they avoid the area until more information could be recorded. SCE contacted the CPUC, BLM, and THPO on January 31. Subsequently, BLM granted permission to collect the artifacts on February 1 per Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) requirements.
4. Excessive speeds along the CRS access road were reported or observed by Monitors on a few occasions throughout the subject period. On February 1 and 2, the SCE General Monitor reported two different incidents related to workers speeding in their personal vehicles. For each incident, the workers were notified that speeding along the road would not be tolerated. On February 1 and 2, the CPUC EM observed several large scrapers and articulated water trucks traveling along the access road at excessive speeds. An email was sent to Sheree James (SCE) by the CPUC EMs on February 1 to notify her of the issue.
5. An active burrowing owl burrow was identified outside the disturbance area by SCE Biologists during surveys along the CRS OPGW alignment on February 1. Coordinates for the burrow were recorded and the SCE Lead Biologists were notified. An ESA was not established at the time to avoid drawing attention to the location.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Substation Construction and Upgrade activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):

None.

CONSTRUCTION YARDS AND OTHER WORKSPACES

Summary of Activity:

Non-Federal Lands:

1. Blythe Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period.
2. Desert Center 1 Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period.
3. Desert Center 2 Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period.
4. Chiriaco Summit Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
5. Indio Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period.
6. Indio 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
7. Devers Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period.
8. Devers 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
9. Beaumont Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
10. Beaumont 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.

11. Menifee Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.

12. Perris Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.

Environmental Compliance:

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a weekly spot check of all of the construction yards.
2. Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period. No compliance issues or special-status species observations were reported.
3. On January 30, the CPUC EM observed workers installing bird netting on three trees just outside the southern boundary of the Desert Center 2 Yard (see Figure 9). The CPUC EM immediately notified Ty Garrison (SCE Subject Matter Expert) and the netting was removed the following day.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Construction yard activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):

None.

CPUC/BLM NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS)

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC/BLM Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the DPV2 and Red Bluff Projects, to date.

TABLE 1
NTPS
(Updated 03/26/12)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
CPUC NTPs				
NTP #1	04/28/11	06/23/11	Yards	Authorization to proceed with the development of the Devers, Desert Center 1, Desert Center 2, Summit, Blythe, Perris, Beaumont, and Menifee Construction Yards.
NTP #2	08/05/11	09/09/11	T/L	Installation of exclusionary fencing, Devers to Blythe. No cultural resources affected. Bio pending.
NTP #3	08/26/11	09/19/11	Yards	Construction of Beaumont Construction Yard #2.
NTP #4	09/09/11	09/20/11	Yards	Construction of Indio Construction Yard.
NTP #5	09/16/11	10/11/11	Red Bluff Distribution Line	Upgrades to a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation, non-BLM lands.
NTP #6	09/16/11	10/17/11	Substation	Authorization to proceed with improvements to the new Colorado River Substation on private lands, including extension of the existing 33 kV distribution line, installation of a new telecommunication line, and access road improvements.
NTP #7	09/09/11	12/01/11	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1).
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – CRS to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and replacement of existing DPV1 overhead ground wire; non-BLM lands.
NTP #9	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between the existing Devers Substation and the new Red Bluff Substation; non-BLM lands.

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
NTP #10	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.
NTP #11	11/08/11	12/10/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
NTP #12	01/20/12	02/03/12	Yards	Construction of Desert Center 3 Construction Yard.
BLM NTPs				
BLM NTP #1	08/26/11	09/19/11	DPV2 Substation, T/L	Authorization to proceed with construction of the DPV2 Transmission Line, Colorado River Substation, and associated project components on BLM lands.
BLM NTP #2	08/26/11	09/19/11	Substation	Construction of Red Bluff Substation and associated project components, BLM lands.

VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUESTS
(Updated 03/26/12)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #1	05/06/11	05/24/11	Devers-Valley	Construction of traditional lattice towers instead of “Tetra” towers at two locations (Structures #1139 and #1140)
VR #2	04/21/11	05/26/11	All	Revisions to Mitigation Measure B-7d pertaining to seasonal restrictions for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard to support consistency with conditions provided in the Biological Opinion.
VR #3	07/12/11	07/18/11	DC 1 & DC 2 Yards	Utilize offsite well location and installation of 12,000-gallon water tank for filling trucks.
VR #4	07/06/11	07/21/11	Menifee Yard	Expansion of Menifee Construction Yard, which would include approximately 5 acres of additional disturbance within the western portion of the parcel, for material storage and other activities.
VR #5	04/22/11	07/28/11	CRS Devers and Valley Substations, Series Capacitor Site	Modification of APM A-7 regarding carpooling for construction at substations.
VR #6	07/07/11	08/01/11	Menifee, Beaumont, Perris Yards	Request to remove Mitigation Measures B-13a and B-13b, and to modify B-1a, B-1a (revised), and B-7e pertaining to Western Riverside County MSHCP compliance.
VR #7	08/11/11	08/22/11	Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, Blythe Yards	Request to utilize offsite water hydrants at Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, and Blythe Construction Yards.
VR #8	08/26/11	08/27/11	Beaumont Yard	Request to install seeded jute netting along the property frontage at Beaumont Construction Yard.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #9	08/24/11	09/01/11	DC 2 Yard	Request for installation of temporary power poles outside of Desert Center 2 Construction Yard.
VR #10	08/26/11	09/01/11	Devers & Summit Yards	Utilize offsite water locations needed for dust suppression at Devers and Summit Construction Yards.
—	09/21/11	Retracted	Perris Yard	Request for additional workspace involving vegetation clearing, installation of BMPs, and temporary driveway installation at Perris Construction Yard.
VR #11	09/26/11	09/28/11	T/L	Two water sources for exclusionary fencing work.
VR #12	10/13/11	10/18/11	T/L	Request for parking/temporary staging of vehicles along existing access road within the Coachella Valley Preserve during exclusionary fencing activities.
VR #13	10/26/11	11/10/11	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers #1 Construction Yard.
VR #14	11/10/11	11/28/11	Substation	Request for increased well pumping to support civil work, including access road improvements, at Colorado River Substation.
VR #15	12/13/11	12/14/11	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.
VR #16	12/22/11	01/04/12	Project-wide	Request to approve alternate/extended work hours project-wide.
VR #17	01/04/12	01/09/12	Project-wide	Request to utilize existing approved construction yard and/or exclusionary fencing water sources for transmission line construction needs.
VR #18	10/25/12 10/26/12	Denied 01/13/12	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Request to allow the usage of helicopter landing zone H9-DV as a replacement for H8-DV.
VR #20	01/13/12	01/19/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
VR#21	01/20/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Lake Tamarisk area for dust suppression
VR #21 Mod	03/16/12	03/21/12	T/L	Modification to VR #21. Request installation of two driveways and an underground water line adjacent to the approved stand tank locations at the Lake Tamarisk Resort water source.
VR #22	01/25/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request to install 10,000-gallon standing water tanks at three locations.
VR #23	01/27/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request to modify NTP #10 and MM AQ-1g for additional t-line helicopter construction.
VR #24	02/08/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request for approval to purchase MWD water credits in lieu of Colorado River water credits due to the unavailability of water allotments within the Colorado River Basin.
VR #25	02/10/12	02/28/12	T/L	Request for use of existing DPV1 access roads and spur/stub roads for parking and staging of vehicles and equipment.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #26	03/09/12	03/16/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located on a private date farm.
VR #27	03/09/12	03/20/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
	03/16/12	Under review	T/L	HLS H7-Dv boundary modification.
	03/16/12	Under review	Substation	Red Bluff Loop-in pull site modifications.
	03/22/12	Under review	T/L	DVP1 minor relocation of outage pull sites.
	03/12/12	Under review	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
	03/23/12	Under review	Substation	CRS pull sites.
BLM				
BLM #1	10/18/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to install a temporary guard structure along the entrance of the existing transmission line access road for Colorado River Substation.
BLM #2	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
DNA #1	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
DNA #2	12/21/11	02/01/12	Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.
DNA #3	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Request to relocate a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District distribution line located at the Series Capacitor site.
DNA #4	02/01/12	Under review	T/L	Request for the addition of proposed helicopter construction and maintenance platforms to the description included in the Project Refinements 1 and 2 documents.
DNA #5	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.
USFS				
USFS-1	03/15/12	Under Review	T/L	SBNF engineering modifications (revised disturbance areas).

TABLE 3
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS
(Updated 03/26/12)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment	Description
#1	07/20/11	07/27/11	Blythe Yard	Use of offsite hydrant and installation of water tank at location adjacent to Blythe Construction Yard
#2	07/28/11	08/04/11	Menifee Yard	Use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, and a flexible hose to supply water to a 4,000 gallon water truck.

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment	Description
#3	08/16/11	08/16/11	Menifee Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, approximately 200 yards north of previously approved location.
—	09/06/11	Retracted	Devers Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, including installation of above ground pipeline and water towers.
#4	09/29/11	09/29/11	T/L	Use of parking areas along primary access road within 400-ft total distance exclusionary fencing locations with exception of sites within the Coachella Valley Preserve.

NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS

Table 4 provides a summary of reported non-compliance incidents.

TABLE 4
CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA
(Updated 03/26/12)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)			
PM #1	10/28/11	CRS Dist. Line	Construction vehicles leaving marked disturbance limits at two locations along CRS distribution line.
PM #2	01/18/12	Tower 2649/ CR1-2W	DPV2 Construction contractor vehicle driving outside of the approved tower and access road disturbance area limits.
PM #3	03/08/12	Tower 1059 & 1060	Failure to comply with MM B-5 which requires that 300-foot buffers are established around active bird nests. Working within unapproved active nest buffers.
CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unapproved removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1. BMPs installed along access road between Towers CR1-3E and CR1-5E.



Figure 2. Vegetation clearing activities completed at Tower CR1-4E.



Figure 3. Vegetation clearing and site watering at Tower 1028.



Figure 4. Grading of the crane pad at Tower 1024.



Figure 5. ESA established at Tower 1019 for active burrowing owl burrow.



Figure 6. Soil scarification occurring in northeast corner at CRS.



Figure 7. Culvert installation along CRS access road.



Figure 8. Southern laydown yard completed at CRS.



Figure 9. Bird netting installed on trees outside disturbance limits at DC2 Yard.