



30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-4316  
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SDG&E'S SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT**

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 2, 2011  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 22 – February 13 to February 19, 2011

**INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project. 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 with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Finally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace and non-compliance activity are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Cassandra Garza, Brian Woodward and Valerie Yep

**TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION**

**Summary of Activity:**

1. Link 1: Drilling for conventional foundations was conducted at EP 244, EP 218-1, 217-1, EP 215, EP 214, EP 213, EP 211, EP 210 and EP 219-1. Helicopter structure assembly occurred at EP 230-1, EP 245-1, EP 44, EP 238-1, EP 237-1, EP 234-1, EP 233-1, EP 232-1, EP 231A, EP 227, EP 199-3, EP 194-2, EP 197-2, EP 195-1. Micropile drilling was conducted at EP 238-1, EP 235-1, EP 231A, EP 231-1, EP 229-1, EP 226-1, EP 224-1, EP 223-1, EP 221-A and EP 230-1. Conventional structure assembly occurred at EP 206-1, EP 203-3, EP 200A, EP 205-2, EP 209-1, EP 204-3, EP 202-3, EP 201-3, EP 208, EP 207, EP 218-1, and EP 217-1. Holes were excavated for 12 kV relocation poles near EP 215.
2. Link 2: Soil boring was conducted at EP 84. Access road rough grading occurred at EP 85-2 (see Figure 1), and EP 84-B. Access to EP 90 was postponed due to a discovered raptor nest adjacent to the access road (see Figure 2); buffer put in place.
3. Link 4: Vaults 3 and 5 were set this week. Potholing occurred on Alpine Boulevard at South Grade Road and Tavern Road for Vaults 7 and 13. Trenching was conducted at Vaults 7L, 15L, 14L, 18L, and East of West Willows Road. Stormwater BMPs were installed in the Bauer Bridge area (see Figure 3). Excavation continued at the entry pit of the Highway 8 jack-and-bore site south of Interstate 8.
4. Link 5: Soil boring was conducted at CP 20. Access road rough grading occurred at CP 31-2. Conventional foundation installation began at CP 17-1.
5. Pre-Construction surveys were performed throughout Link 1, 2 and 5 with appropriate monitors.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. Biological, Cultural, and Native American monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
2. BMP installation continues, as well as the review of any deficiencies noted during rain events. (see Figure 4)



3. A small amount of diesel fuel (less than one-half gallon) leaked from a mechanics truck onto the access road near structure EP 219. The crew immediately stopped the leak, contained it, and cleaned up the spill with the spill kits on hand.
4. An incident occurred on February 17 where construction activities occurred at the driveway to EP 244 where a cactus wren nest was located, as indicated on nesting maps issued by SDG&E. Work was stopped and a biologist was brought on site to verify the nest location. It was determined that the initial data recorded for the nest was incorrect. Correct nest information was verified and new maps were issued. The nest in question was actually found to be approximately 150 feet south of where it was previously plotted.

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

**Agency Representatives during Construction (other than EMs):**

None.

**SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES**

**Summary of Activity:**

1. Suncrest Substation: Rough grading continued along the access road and substation pad. Installation of the canyon drain in the northern drainage continued. Sediment basin construction and BMP maintenance were conducted prior to the predicted rain event (see Figures 5 and 6). The Contractor began preparations to relocate cultural boulders.
2. Imperial Valley Substation Upgrade: Trenching and excavation for foundations continues. A water truck has been utilized for control of dust along the access road. On two occasions, small collections of freshwater mollusks were recovered from the excavated sediments by the Paleontologist. These paleontological discoveries were from the Lake Chuilla sediments. No work was stopped or diverted.
3. Excavation work continued at the San Luis Rey Substation.
4. Building of a new transformer occurred at the Encina Substation. No excavation occurred due to the predicted rain.
5. Work has been completed at the South Bay Substation.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. All applicable Biological, Cultural, Paleontological, and Native American monitors have been present during ground disturbing activities at all substations.
2. Native American representatives from the Viejas Tribe were onsite at Suncrest Substation to discuss the relocation of cultural boulders.
3. Paleontological discoveries of freshwater mollusks continue to be made at Imperial Valley Substation. Samples have been taken and recorded by the onsite Paleontological Monitor.

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:**

1. Delivery of equipment, monopoles and wire reels continued at the Alpine Construction Yard.
2. No ground disturbing activities were conducted at the Alpine Regional Field Office (Alpine RFO).
3. Approval was obtained from the County of San Diego for construction activity in the Wilson Construction Yard on Sunday, February 20, 2011 and Monday (holiday) February 21, 2011.
4. Steel tower assembly activities that had been conducted at Rough Acres Construction Yard have been moved to the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Construction Yard. Steel deliveries continue to be made at Rough Acres, as well as driveway improvements continue to be made.
5. No ground disturbing work being conducted at the Thomas Yard; material delivery and storage continues. The Link Lead was onsite monitoring for burrowing owls.
6. Helicopter and structure assembly operations continued at the JVR Construction Yard. Work was halted on Saturday, February 19, 2011 due to rain. Erosion control devices are functioning properly. Driveway installation was conducted.
7. Crews finished building the fencing and gate at the Helix Construction Yard. The access road was improved.
8. Site preparations have been completed at the Hartung Yard Construction Yard. The access road was improved. An active red-tailed hawk nest was discovered and an appropriate buffer was implemented.
9. Fencing has been completed at the Bartlett-Hauser Construction Yard. Approval was obtained from the County of San Diego for construction activity at the Bartlett-Hauser Yard on Sunday, February 20, and Monday (holiday), February 21.
10. Herbicide application was conducted at the SWAT Construction Yard to prevent the spread of weeds. In addition, installation of the wash station was completed. The access road was improved and BMPs were installed. Activity was limited due to rain.
11. The access road to the Kruetzkamp Construction Yard is currently being evaluated for land rights issues.
12. On February 18, the incoming storms forced an emergency landing of 3 helicopters at the Alpine RFO due to low visibility. They remained at the yard until the storm passed and visibility was good enough to make it to a nearby air field. No refueling occurred onsite and there was no hazardous threat due to their presence (see Figure 7).

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Biological, Cultural, and Native American monitors have worked with crews at the construction yards to define approved work areas and sites to avoid.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memorandums were issued during the subject period for Construction Yards and other workspace activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

### **Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

**CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPs)**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed activity for the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**CPUC NTPs**  
(Updated 03/02/2011)

NTP#	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
#1	01/04/10	04/28/10	25	San Luis Rey Substation Upgrades
#2	02/08/10	04/29/10	23	South Bay Substation Upgrades
#3	02/26/10	05/20/10	Yard	Alpine Yard 18
#4	01/26/10	05/28/10	Yard	Alpine Yard 18A
#5	02/05/10	09/28/10	Yard	Rough Acres Yard, Phase 1
#6	05/26/10	09/28/10	24	Encina Substation Upgrades
#7	05/28/10	09/28/10	Telecomm	White Star Communication Facility
#8	06/09/10	10/06/10	Substation	Pomerado Substation Upgrades
#9	06/09/10	10/06/10	Substation	Scripps Switchyard/Substation Upgrades
#10	10/13/10	11/23/10	15	Link 4, Alpine 230 kV Underground Construction
#11	10/19/10	12/15/10	13	Link 3, Suncrest Substation/Wilson Construction Yard
#12	11/30/10	12/23/10	Yard	Rough Acres Yard, Phase 2
#13	11/09/10	01/14/11	2-18, 20-22	Links 1, 2, and 5, overhead construction on non-federal Lands
BLM #1	01/19/11	02/03/11	1	Imperial Valley Substation upgrades.

**VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS**

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

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 03/02/2011)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
#1	11/04/10	11/10/10	Yard	Thomas Yard (El Centro, CA)
#2	12/22/10	Under Review	Yard	Sycamore Estates Construction Yard. Response to inquiry received 02/23.
#3	01/06/10	01/18/11	All	Modification to tree trimming requirements.
#3 MOD	01/25/11	01/26/11	All	Modification to brush clearing requirements.
#4	01/13/11	03/01/11	Yard	Helicopter Temporary Landing Pad area at the Alpine Regional Field Offices.
#5	02/01/11	02/09/11	Yard	Site improvements at the Wilson Construction yard and along Bell Bluff Trail
#6	02/01/11	03/01/11	Link 5	Variance from Mitigation Measure H-1a (CC) to allow work outside of the dry season.
#7	02/11/11	02/17/11	Link 3	Additional work areas for construction trailers, parking, etc.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 03/02/2011)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description
TEWS #1	11/01/10	11/01/10	White Star	Asphalt paved area for vehicle parking and staging

**NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

Project Memorandum, Non-Compliance Reports, and other incidents that have occurred to date are presented in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**  
**NON-COMPLIANCES, PROJECT MEMORANDA (PM), AND OTHER INCIDENTS**  
 (Updated 03/02/2011)

Type	Date	Location	Description
Incident	11/1/2010	White Star	Delivery of a rebar cage outside of the approved disturbance area.
PM #1	12/7/2010	Thomas Yard	Failure to report unanticipated biological resources within 48 hours.
PM #2	02/11/2011	EP 242	Unauthorized ground disturbance at EP 242
Incident	02/17/2011	EP 244	Nest incorrectly marked at entrance to EP 244.
Incident	02/18/2011	Alpine HQ	Emergency weather landing and storage of 3 helicopters at Alpine HQ.

**PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1:** Grubbing completed at Tower EP 85, Link 2.



**Figure 2:** Access to Tower EP 90 has been affected by presence of a raptor nest, Link 2.



**Figure 3:** SWPPP installation after first rain event of the week at Bauer Bridge, Link 4.



**Figure 4:** SWPPP installation during rain event on access road near Tower EP 214, Link 1.



**Figure 5:** Sediment basin construction, Link 3.



**Figure 6:** Completed BMP installation along Bell Bluff Truck Trail, Link 3.



**Figure 7.** Helicopters at Alpine RFO.