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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 22, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Reports #17 and #18, May 4-May 17, 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 weeks, construction activity continued under Notice to Proceed (NTP) #5 for the construction of the Shoofly in Section 1, NTP #7 for construction of 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 approved construction yards; Pumpkin, Pottery, Blue Cloud, Avenue I, Mechanics, and Antelope.

**SECTION 1**

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter was onsite May 8-10 and May 12-15.

**Summary of Activity:**

The Shoofly (temporary bypass line) of the Antelope Pardee Transmission Line Project authorized under NTP #5 was energized on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The lattice tower structures originally supporting the line will later be replaced to accommodate construction of the new Antelope Pardee 500 kV structures within the Shoofly corridor.

The NTP (#7) for Section 1 of Segment 1 was issued by the CPUC on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Construction activities approved under NTP #7 in Section 1 include the removal of the Del Sur-Saugus 66 kV line and towers, the construction of the new 500 kV lattice towers, and the removal of the existing 220 kV Santa Clara Vincent line and towers. Construction activities under NTPs #5 and #7 consisted of the following activities.

1. Road building for access to construct new towers to support the Antelope Pardee 500 kV transmission line began on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Roads were cut to new construction (NC) 3 and 4, and were completed during the week (see Figure 1). PAR crews plan to conduct road construction from west to the east along the project alignment.
2. Foundation drilling took place after access to new tower locations had been constructed (see Figure 2). Foundations for the new towers were drilled at NC 2 and NC 3. The four holes for the lattice tower foundations are up to 6 feet in diameter and up to 35-feet in depth.
3. Concrete pouring took place at NC 2 once the re-bar cages were placed into the foundation holes. Steel corners were anchored into the concrete in order to support the tower construction (see Figure 3).
4. Traveler hanging took place on the 66kV wreck out towers to prepare for removing the wire. Once the travelers were installed, the wire was rewound off the towers and hauled offsite.



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. Biological monitoring of Section 1 construction was conducted by Burns and McDonnell and BRC during the subject weeks. Paleontological monitors were also present.

### **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 Section 1 should be updated to these resource maps and distributed to the monitoring team, CPUC, and CDFG as requested by Dan Blankenship (CDFG).
2. Five bird nests containing eggs were relocated the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Four of the nests (presumed to be built by house finches) were found on construction equipment parked in the right-of-way near Kathleen Road and Haskell Canyon. One nest was found on a truck parked in the Pumpkin Yard. The four nests in the right-of-way were removed from construction equipment and placed into artificial nest platforms nearby by a biologist (see Figure 4). According to the biologist, the adult birds followed the nest in one case. The biologist did not observe adult birds at the nests moved to the other three platforms. The nests moved into the platforms were observed to have been predated by Ravens or abandoned. The finch nest found in the Pumpkin Yard was observed to not contain eggs, so a biologist removed the nesting material. Upon the removal of the nest, three eggs were found, but were broken while extracting the nest.
3. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, SCE reported that the incubation of the one hawk egg and four Raven eggs had failed.
4. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC EM discovered four unmarked woodrat middens after biological sweeps had been conducted. These middens were in the path of a new road which was about to be constructed. The CPUC EM notified the project biologist monitor and the middens were flagged and avoided by construction. A raven nest located in the adjacent tower was observed within 300-feet of the road construction activity. The CPUC EM reminded the biological monitor that CDFG needed to be contacted to gain concurrence to work within 300 feet of active bird nests. This nest was originally identified by project biological monitors in April.
5. While constructing new access roads to NC 5, project biological monitors identified several more woodrat middens in the way of construction. Ones that could be avoided were flagged, but others were raked to allow the woodrats to leave the area, although none were observed.
6. While crews prepared to hang travelers in the 66 kV wreck out towers, the Lead Environmental Inspector for Section 1 coordinated with CDFG to gain permission for crews to climb two 66 kV towers which contained active nests (a raven and a western kingbird). Crews were able to minimize their time spent in the tower to avoid prolonged disturbance to the nesting birds.
7. Other nests previously identified in the Shoofly construction corridor are being monitored by Burns and McDonnell or biological subcontractors. During discussions with CDFG and Burns and McDonnell management on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.

8. The CPUC EM toured several active construction yard sites during the subject week, including Upper and Lower Pumpkin yards, Pottery, Blue Cloud, and Antelope.

No Project Memoranda (PMs) or Non Compliance Reports (NCRs) were issued by the CPUC during the subject weeks.

**Agency Representatives:**

Dan Blankenship toured the finch nest relocation areas on May 8<sup>th</sup>. John Boccio and Tom Flynn, CPUC toured the Section 1 construction on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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 May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of Activity:**

The grading of a small portion of the Antelope Substation expansion area began on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The CPUC EM reminded SCE that a clearance sweep of biological resources was required to be submitted prior to construction. A clearance report was submitted that day; however, was describing the nearby marshalling yard. The CPUC EM was told that the biologist who conducted the yard survey also surveyed the substation expansion area; however, the area was not described in the submittal. The CPUC EM asked that a clarification be provided describing the survey area for the expansion site.

Several active bird nests, including ravens and house finches were identified within the substation boundaries.

The CPUC EM toured the proposed 12 kV line relocation within Section 3 on April 30<sup>th</sup> with a Burns and McDonnell biologist and PAR environmental staff. Many of the adjacent 66 kV towers were observed to contain large stick nests. If work needs to be conducted within 300-feet of active nests, consultation with CDFG is required.

**CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPs) & ANF PERMITTING**

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 05-22-08)

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	May 8, 2008	Section 1 Construction.
#8	May 1, 2008	May 9, 2008	10-acre marshalling yard near Antelope Substation.
XX	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 Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
 (Updated 05-22-08)

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.
VR #4	May 8, 2008	May 9, 2008	Weekend work along the 66 kV line in Section 1

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
 (Updated 05-22-08)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Description
TEWS 1	May 15, 2008	May 16, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement outside of disturbance limits adjacent to New Construct tower (NC 3) in Section 1.
TEWS 2	May 19, 2008	May 21, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement adjacent outside of disturbance limits to New Construct tower (NC 12) in Section 1.
TEWS 3	May 20, 2008	May 20, 2008	Extra Workspace for equipment parking outside of disturbance limits along shoulder of private road adjacent to New Construct tower (NC 2) in Section 1.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS-SECTION 1



**Figure 1:** New tower pad construction at NC 4. Once the pad is constructed, the auger truck will be mobilized to drill the new tower foundations.



**Figure 2:** An auger truck excavating foundation footings at NC 3 after road building to the tower site took place.



**Figure 3:** At NC 2, foundations were poured and steel anchors put in place to support the construction of the lattice towers.



**Figure 4:** Nest platforms constructed near Kathleen Road. Active finch nests were relocated into these structures from construction equipment, all nests relocated appear to have been predated or abandoned.