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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 30, 2008
Subject: Weekly Report #19, May 18-24, 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) #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, pending the issuance of construction permits. 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 Monitors (EM): Jenny Slaughter was onsite May 20-23. Arturo Ruelas was onsite May 21-23.

Summary of Activity:

The Shoofly (temporary bypass line) of the Antelope Pardee Transmission Line Project authorized under NTP #5 was energized on May 10th. 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 8th. 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 #7 consisted of the following activities.

1. Road building and crane pad construction for access to new tower locations to support the Antelope Pardee 500 kV transmission continued. Roads were cut and/or improved to new tower construction sites (NC) 5, 6, 7 and 9, during the subject week (see Figure 1). PAR crews plan to conduct road construction from west to the east along the project alignment, followed by foundation drilling, concrete pouring, and tower assembly.
2. Tower foundation drilling took place after access to new tower locations had been constructed at NC 2-5. 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 3 and 4 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. Tower assembly is occurring at NC 2, 3, and 4, which takes place once the concrete footings have cured (see Figure 2).
5. Along the Saugus–Del Sur 66 kV line, three towers were dismantled (5-1, 5-2, and 5-3). Crews accessed the tower sites along approved access roads and used crane trucks to remove the towers in pieces (see Figure 3). Several other 66 kV towers in Section 1 will be dismantled using helicopters in areas where no vehicle access exists. Sections of the dismantled towers will be flown to the Upper Pumpkin yard for further dismantling.
6. Biological monitoring and associated biological clearance surveys of Section 1 construction areas was conducted by Burns and McDonnell and BRC biologists during the subject weeks. Paleontological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing construction activities.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Updated biological resource maps provided to field monitors and biologists on Monday were reviewed by the CPUC EM and were found to be incomplete and inaccurate. The maps did not include the 66 kV towers of the Saugus–Del Sur line to be removed (many of these contain active bird nests), or the 220 kV Santa Clara–Vincent line and towers to be removed (many of these contain active bird nests). In addition, the associated bird nesting matrix table did not correspond to the mapped nest locations and included many incorrect locations, leading to confusion in the field regarding the status and exact location of resources on the project. A Project Memorandum was issued by the CPUC on May 22nd for the insufficient resource maps. The CPUC EM worked with the Burns and McDonnell Environmental Lead to make the appropriate corrections and clarifications to the maps, and recommended that one person be responsible for gathering and updating active nest data so that consistent resource locations were reported.
2. On Tuesday May 20th, PAR crews mobilized to wreck out 220 kV tower 24/2 to complete the tower dismantling. This complete tower dismantling has been on hold pending the fledging of western kingbird chicks in a nest in this tower. The CPUC EM asked the biological monitors what the status of the nest was, and no one was sure. The CPUC EM recommended that a PAR lineman climb the tower to inspect the nest status, at least three chicks were found inside the nest. The construction crews mobilized to another area. House finches were also observed by project biologists on the same tower; however, no nest was found.
3. 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. 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 are to be added to resource maps and distributed on a weekly basis to the monitoring team, CPUC, and CDFG as requested by Dan Blankenship (CDFG).
4. The active house finch nests relocated the week of May 5th onto platforms have apparently been predated or abandoned. CDFG biologist Dan Blankenship has recommended that the platforms be redesigned to decrease the chances of predation by larger birds. To date, no changes have been made to the existing platforms.
5. On May 15th, SCE reported that the incubation of the one Red-tailed hawk egg and four Raven eggs has failed.

6. One new nest was reported during the subject week; a house finch nest underneath a parked trailer in the Pottery Yard.
7. While constructing new access roads to NC 9, project biological monitors identified several more woodrat middens in the construction disturbance areas. Ones that could be avoided were flagged, but others were raked to allow the woodrats to leave the area, although none were observed. To date, approximately six woodrat middens have been removed by biologists (at locations NC 6 and 9).
8. Sensitive plants are routinely observed within or adjacent to project areas. A mariposa lily was observed along the access road to NC 9 (see Figure 4).
9. Other nests previously identified in the Section 1 construction corridor are being monitored by Burns and McDonnell or biological subcontractors. 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.
10. Hauling of material from the permanent tower site 25 under NTP #5 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.
11. Two Temporary Extra Workspace requests were approved by the CPUC EM during the subject week. These are summarized in Table 3.
12. The CPUC EM toured several active construction yard sites during the subject week, including Upper and Lower Pumpkin yards, Pottery, Blue Cloud, and Antelope.

One Project Memoranda (PM) was issued by the CPUC EM on May 22nd for incomplete and inaccurate project resource maps.

Agency Representatives:

None.

SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS

ANF Representatives: Marian Kadota

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter

Summary of Activity:

Construction in Section 2 is pending the issuance of construction permits including the Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Forest Service and the CPUC NTP.

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 and Arturo Ruelas.

The CPUC EMs toured the Antelope Substation, adjacent yards, and expansion area on May 22nd.

Summary of Activity:

The grading of a small portion of the Antelope Substation expansion area is nearly completed (see Figure 5). Crews plan to place rock next week and place an earthen berm around the site for control of runoff.

Several active bird nests, including ravens and house finches were identified within the substation boundaries. A raven nest is located within 300-feet of the construction activities and does not appear to be disturbed by construction activity. CDFG provided approval to allow construction activities to occur within the 300-feet of the nest.

The CPUC EM toured the proposed 12 kV line relocation within Section 3 on April 30th 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 05-30-08)

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	Pending submittals	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 05-30-08)

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 05-30-08)

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 crane pad construction at NC 9. Once the pad is constructed, the auger truck will be mobilized to drill the new tower foundations.



Figure 2: Assembly of 500 kV New Construct tower (NC) 2 outside of the Pardee Substation.



Figure 3: A population of mariposa lilies along the road to NC 9.



Figure 4: The removal of a 66 kV tower near Seco Canyon. A crane truck removed the tower in sections.



Figure 5: Grading and excavation of the Antelope Substation expansion area. Once the area matches the existing substation grade, rock placement will occur.