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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:** June 5, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #20, May 25-31, 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 27-30. Arturo Ruelas was onsite May 27-30.

**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 NTP #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) 8, 9, and 11, during the subject week. 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 5-7. 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 5 and 6 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.
4. Tower assembly is occurring at NC 2, 3, and 4, and takes place once the concrete footings have cured (see Figure 1).



5. Along the Saugus-Del Sur 66 kV line, five more towers were dismantled (5-4, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4). Towers 6-1 through 6-4 were removed using a helicopter. A biological monitor was able to conduct a clearance sweep of the towers before they were removed. Sections of the dismantled towers were flown to the Upper Pumpkin yard for further dismantling. So far, the 66 kV wreck out tower foundations have been cut to a depth of approximately 2-feet below grade and backfilled.
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 were provided on Monday which accurately showed biological resource locations. An updated bird nesting tracking table was also provided to field monitors. Project components including tower numbers and locations of wreck out towers were added to the maps.
2. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, a tower dismantling crew wanted to drive crew trucks to access the 66 kV wreck out tower 6-1 along an existing two track road; however, this road was not included on the disturbance maps and crossed private property. The CPUC EM recommended that a Temporary Extra Workspace form be submitted including biological and cultural resource survey results, along with the property owner approval. Once all was received, the TEWS was approved.
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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Two new nests were reported during the subject week; a house finch nest with chicks was identified in a wreck out tower and a California Quail nest was found near NC 10.
6. 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). CDFG representative Dan Blankenship was notified and visited the site on May 27<sup>th</sup>. CDFG is considering trapping the woodrats as a way to determine the species of woodrats in the area.
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. One Temporary Extra Workspace requests were approved by the CPUC EM during the subject week. These are summarized in Table 3.
9. 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 Non Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week.

**Agency Representatives:**

CDFG Representative Dan Blankenship visited the areas surrounding NC 9 on May 27<sup>th</sup> to look at several woodrat middens identified in the project area.

**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) and Construction Plan 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of Activity:**

The grading of a small portion of the Antelope Substation expansion area has been completed. Work currently underway involves the installation of a copper grid, to be followed by rock placement (see Figure 2). An earthen berm was constructed surrounding the expansion area to assist in drainage.

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 do not appear to be disturbed by construction activity. CDFG provided approval to allow construction activities to occur within the 300-feet of the nest. One empty house finch nest was reported and removed by project biologists. A second house finch nest (partial nest including one egg) was observed on a shelf in an equipment locker (see Figure 3). According to project biologists, no adult birds were visiting the nest.

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 06-05-08)

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	June 2, 2008	In Review	12 kV line (Hughes Lake Distribution Line).
XX	June 3, 2008	In Review	Section 3 construction.
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 06-5-08)

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 06-5-08)

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.
TEWS 4	May 27, 2008	May 27, 2008	Access for crew trucks to 66 kV wreck out tower 6-1.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS-SECTION 1



**Figure 1:** New 500 kV double circuit tower (NC2) under construction. This tower is the first one outside of the Pardee Substation, near Wal Mart. The tower in the background (left) will eventually be wrecked out after the new line is energized.



**Figure 2:** Grading of a portion of the Antelope Substation Expansion Area has been completed. Once the copper grounding is installed, rock will be brought in and the area will be fenced.



**Figure 3:** A partially constructed House finch nest (including one egg) found in a storage locker at the Antelope Substation.