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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

**ANTELOPE PARDEE PROJECT, SEGMENT 1**

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC  
Justin Seastrand, Project Manager, ANF  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** July 18, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #26, July 6-12, 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 period, 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 July 7-10. Arturo Ruelas was onsite July 7-11.

**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.

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 Saugus-Del Sur 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 during the subject week 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. PAR crews 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 was completed at NC 1a after a groundwater remediation plan was submitted and reviewed. The groundwater encountered in the footing holes was mixed with a thickening agent and removed. The construction of several new 500 kV tower foundations are on hold due to difficulties with the removal of the existing 220 kV towers and conductors. 220 kV conductor on wreck out towers between San Francisquito Road and Haskell Canyon Road have been removed and the existing 220 kV towers are in various stages of being dismantled. Between Haskell Canyon Road and NC 25 (on the east end of the Shoofly), the conductor is still in place until a plan is developed to



safely remove the conductor over the LADWP transmission line corridor located in Haskell Canyon. Although the conductor has not yet been removed completely, the wires have been lowered to the ground and anchored in some cases to allow crews to dismantle the 220 kV wreck out towers.

3. Concrete pouring took place 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. New 500 kV tower construction is occurring at NC 2 -13 (between the Pardee Substation and the west end of the Shoofly); these towers are in various stages of assembly (see Figure 1).
5. Four new 500 kV tower locations are inaccessible due to property condemnation proceedings. Once the property is acquired by SCE, biological clearance surveys will have to be conducted prior to any construction in these areas.
6. Along the Saugus–Del Sur 66 kV line, all but two towers have been dismantled in Section 1; these are on hold until the 66 kV conductor is removed in the ANF. SCE prepared a tower footing removal demonstration for the Angeles National Forest staff on June 16th. The ANF will determine if SCE will be required to completely remove all 66 kV tower footing on the ANF or if the foundations could be cut off at two feet below grade and backfilled. This decision by the ANF is still pending.
7. The CPUC EMs conducted a field tour of the Hydrant Yard prior to the issuance of the NTP. Since the area is heavily vegetated, a biological sweep survey will have to be conducted prior to mowing of the site. Other conditions of the yard approval include a pedestrian cultural resource survey after vegetation removal and soil sampling prior to yard use, as conditioned by LADWP, the owner of the property.
8. Biological monitoring and associated biological clearance surveys of Section 1 construction areas was conducted by Burns and McDonnell and BRC biologists during the subject week. Paleontological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing construction activities.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Updated biological resource maps were provided on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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).
3. The active house finch nests relocated the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> onto platforms have 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.
4. An active Kingbird nest was found on the 220 kV wreck out tower next to NC 17. While crews were dismantling the tower, the workers observed the active nest. The crews stopped the tower dismantling activities and SCE is coordinating with resource agencies on the possibility of moving this nest to avoid construction delays.

5. SCE Biological Monitors reported that the two house finch nests in wreck out tower 24-2 (adjacent to NC 25) had been removed. According to SCE, the lineman climbed the tower and found both nests to be empty.
6. Before constructing new access roads to NC 13, 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 eight woodrat middens have been removed by biologists (at locations NC 6, 9, and 13). CDFG representative Dan Blankenship was notified. 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 (TEWS) request was reviewed by the CPUC EM during the subject week. TEWS Requests are summarized in Table 3.
9. The CPUC EMs toured several active construction yard sites during the subject period, including Upper and Lower Pumpkin yards, Hydrant, Pottery, Blue Cloud, and Antelope.

No Non Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week.

**Agency Representatives:**

None.

**SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS**

**ANF Representatives:** Justin Seastrand

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter and Art Ruelas.

**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.

During the week of June 5 the CPUC EMs were notified that several spans of the 66 kV line within the ANF had been cut down and removed by trespassers. SCE directed PAR construction to go to the locations on the ANF and remove conductor that had been cut down by the vandals, since it could present a fire risk. Burns and McDonnell Environmental staff accompanied the crews to monitor the conductor removal. An SCE representative provided security in the area overnight to prevent trespassers from stealing any conductor on the ground.

A field meeting took place on Thursday, June 5 between ANF Representatives Marian Kadota and George Geer, SCE, PAR construction personnel, Burns and McDonnell Environmental staff, and the CPUC EMs. The meeting took place to discuss the possibility of removing the conductor in the 66 kV towers on the ANF, before the Special Use Permit is issued for main construction in order to protect SCE property and safely remove the conductor. ANF will review a plan provided by PAR describing the staging areas, access roads, and resources identified in the areas in order to process an SUP for this work. Several Mariposa lilies were observed within the 66kV right-of-way, and may be impacted during the conductor removal.

On July 14, 2008, the Forest Service issued a fully executed copy of the Special Use Permit that authorizes SCE to remove the 66-kV conductor, know as the Saugus–Del Sur, from National Forest System lands. The Forest Service also provided written notice that SCE can proceed with the implementation of Phase 1 of the 66-kV conductor removal, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).

**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 Section 3 on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of Activity:**

Section 3 includes the construction of the 500 kV towers, the dismantling of the Saugus–Del Sur 66 kV transmission line (see Figure 2), the construction of the 12 kV distribution line, and the Antelope Substation expansion for the Antelope Pardee Project.

NTPs #10 (for the 12 kV component of Section 3 of Segment 1) and #11 (for the 500 kV tower construction and dismantling of the 66 kV transmission line) were issued by the CPUC on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Construction activities approved under NTP #2 continued for the Antelope Substation expansion work.

Construction activities under NTPs #2, #10, and #11 during the subject week consisted of the following activities.

1. Grading, grounding and fencing of the Antelope Substation expansion area has been completed. An earthen berm was constructed surrounding the expansion area to assist in drainage. Crews are currently constructing the new substation components within the expansion area.
2. No construction activities took place in Section 3 during the subject week. Crews have been staging equipment at the nearby 10-acre yard in preparation for construction activities. PAR construction will be the contractor for the 66 kV transmission line removal and the construction of the 500 kV transmission line. For the 12 kV component, a subcontractor to PAR will conduct the installation.
3. Because the original biological pre-construction surveys were incomplete, SCE is required to conduct further pre-construction clearance surveys to identify resources in Section 3. These survey results were submitted to the CPUC on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The CPUC EMs conducted a field tour of Section 3 to verify that biological resources discovered during the clearance surveys were marked for avoidance and mapped on project resource maps. The CPUC EM completed the biological survey review and approval was given to SCE on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. CDFG Representative Dan Blankenship toured the Section 3 right-of-way on July 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for avoidance of wood rat middens and sensitive plants.

## **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CPUC EM was notified that PAR crews would be mobilizing equipment into yards adjacent to Section 3. Another notification phone call was made to the CPUC EM that PAR intended to begin road constructing near Elizabeth Lake Road later that morning. The CPUC EM notified the Burns and McDonnell Environmental Inspector that if PAR was allowed to proceed with construction, a Non-Compliance Report could be issued because no biological clearance survey results had been submitted to the CPUC. The CPUC EM received another notification that the biological clearance survey reports had been emailed, and that construction would proceed. The CPUC EM contacted the Burns and McDonnell Lead Environmental Inspector and explained that the survey results needed to be *reviewed and approved* before construction could proceed, per the conditions of the NTP. In addition, the majority of biological resources present in Section 3 had not been mapped or flagged for avoidance. The grading of existing roads between Elizabeth Lake Road and NC 95 had occurred before Burns and McDonnell shut down construction.
2. On Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CPUC EMs toured the Section 3 right-of-way with road construction crews to discuss several areas where the proposed overland travel would not be possible. In one case, a temporary road will need to be built in order for large equipment to access a tower site. In another location, the sides of a drainage will need to be bladed to allow construction equipment to drive across. Finally, a second drainage crossing an existing road will be filled with rock for access. The CPUC EM informed the crew that a variance will be required to capture these areas, since more disturbance is required than originally proposed. A memorandum describing these changes was distributed to CDFG for comment. CDFG has requested that a geo-fabric be used to contain the rock placed in the drainage and removed after work is completed.
3. 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. 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. According to project biologists, no adult birds were visiting the nest. Project Biologists continued to monitor the partial house finch nest and determined that it had failed; the nest and egg was removed.
4. Three stick nests were observed in the 66 kV towers within Section 3. SCE plans to climb the towers to determine if the nests are active. If the nests are inactive, the nests will be removed, since the towers will soon be dismantled.
5. Along Section 3, archaeological testing was completed for the 12 kV pole locations within a recorded pre-historic archaeological site. A report of the testing results is pending.

## **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 07-18-08)

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 Saugus–Del Sur line during the outage scheduled for March 27, 2008.
#6	March 19, 2008	March 29, 2008	Use of three additional construction yards, Rodeo, Blue Cloud, and Pumpkin expansion. Rodeo yard approved under NTP #9.
#7	April 3, 2008	May 8, 2008	Section 1 Construction.
#8	May 1, 2008	May 9, 2008	10-acre marshalling yard near Antelope Substation.
#9	March 18, 2008	June 18, 2008	Rodeo Yard
#10	June 2, 2008	June 25, 2008	12 kV line (Hughes Lake Distribution Line).
#11	June 3, 2008	June 25, 2008	Section 3 construction.
#12	June 27, 2008	July 8, 2008	Hydrant Yard
#13	July 17, 2008	Under review	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).
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
		July 14, 2008	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).

**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 07-18-08)

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
VR #5	July 15, 2008	Biological and cultural surveys need to be submitted	Expansion of guard pole structure areas in Haskell Canyon, New wire stringing site between NC 11 and 12, and crane pad near NC 20.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
(Updated 07-18-08)

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.
TEWS 5	July 3, 2008	July 16, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement and tower assembly near NC 12.
TEWS 6	7/3/08 – Site review; paperwork pending	Variance required if vegetated area is proposed.	Extra Workspace for steel placement and tower assembly near NC 13.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS-SEGMENT 1



**Figure 1:** Between the Pardee Substation and the beginning of the Shoofly, the new 500 kV towers are being constructed in the center position of an existing SCE right-of-way. The towers on the right are currently supporting the Santa Clara–Vincent line, these towers will be dismantled and the conductor strung onto one side of the new double circuit towers.



**Figure 2:** In Section 3, the 66 kV towers (seen looking toward the Antelope Valley) will be dismantled in order to construct the new 500 kV Antelope Pardee towers. One side of the lines supported by the 66 kV towers will be relocated to wood poles, the Hughes Lake 12 kV portion of the Project.