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#### **PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

#### **DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

To: Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** April 16, 2015

**Subject:** Monitoring Report #19: April 6 to April 12, 2015

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Southern California Edison (SCE) Downs Substation Expansion Project.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction and Minor Project Change (MPC) activities are provided in Tables 1 and 2, respectively (below).

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): David DuBois was on site April 10, 2015.

**Work Schedule:** Work continued Monday through Saturday during the subject period. No work occurred Sunday.

## **CPUC NTPs**

## **#1 Downs Substation Expansion Site**

NTP #1 was issued on October 22, 2014 for the site preparation, grading, and construction of the Downs Substation expansion, adjacent to the existing Downs Substation on the corner of South Downs Street and West Ridgecrest Boulevard in Ridgecrest. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

### **Summary of Activity:**

- 1. Gravel and materials continued to be stored on the substation pad. The substation expansion pad is approximately 60% complete (see Figure 1).
- 2. Concrete deliveries, trenching, and conduit installation occurred at the substation expansion area during the subject period (see Figure 2).
- 3. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) and associated wiring continued during the subject period.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. Cultural monitoring has been suspended and did not occur during the subject period. The majority of grading is complete and the ground surface is 100% disturbed.
- 2. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject period. No sensitive biological resources were observed during the subject period.
- 3. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function along the property boundary fencing. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.
- 4. Following the approval of MPC #1 (see Table 2 below), an alternate route to access the Project work-area, that avoids public traffic, is available for use. However, during the subject period, construction traffic was minimal and accessed the site from West Ridgecrest Boulevard.
- 5. Track-out was minimal during the subject period. A street sweeper is onsite to manage roadway cleaning as necessary.

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- 6. Concrete washouts are properly contained and generators were equipped with secondary containment.
- 7. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.
- 8. No dust issues were observed.

#### **#2 Linear Portion**

NTP #2 was issued on February 20, 2015 for the linear portion of the Project which includes 115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

## **Summary of Activity:**

- 1. Fiber optic related boring activities continued along short sections of the telecom route near the SCE Ridgecrest Service Center during the subject period. Most of the underground work is complete (see Figure 3) Crews worked to install temporary patches in the roadway (see Figures 4& 5). Patches will be replaced with roadway asphalt in the coming weeks.
- 2. Crews continued work along overhead portions of the telecom route during the subject period.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. Biologists and Cultural specialists are continuing preconstruction clearance and resource avoidance delineations for work areas along portions of the NTP #2 linear alignment.
- 2. Biologists continue to monitor bird nests along the NTP #2 linear segment. During the subject period one raven, one mourning dove, and one horned lark nest were active near work areas.

#### **Notices to Proceed**

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Table 1
Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)
(Updated 04/16/15)

	Date	Date		
NTP#1	Requested	Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	09/04/14	10/22/14	Downs	Site preparation/grading, installation of
			Substation	substation components in the expanded
			Expansion	Down's Substation footprint.
NTP #2	01/27/15	02/20/15	Remainder of	115 kV and fiber optic installations, and
			the Project	substation upgrades.

# **Minor Project Changes**

Table 2 summarizes the Minor Project Changes for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Table 2
Minor Project Changes (MPCs)

(Updated 04/16/15)

МРС	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
MPC#1	12/05/14	12/15/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Requests the use of an existing dirt roadway that connects the southwest corner of the work area to Church Avenue.

## **PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH**



Figure 1 – The Downs Substation pad is approximately 60% complete. View southeast, 04/10/15.

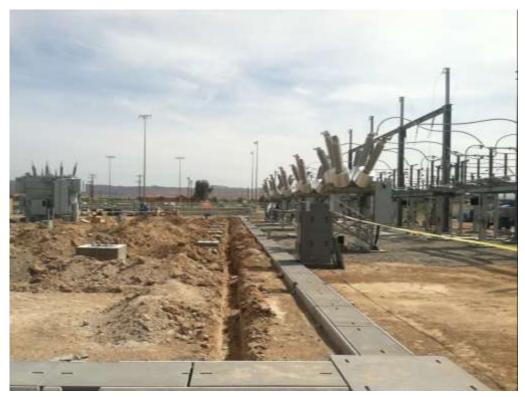


Figure 2 – Underground conduit installation occurred within the Substation expansion area during the subject period. View south, 04/10/15.



Figure 3 – Boring work for telecom lines continued during the subject period. The majority of underground work is complete. Steel plates are seen at the future location of the telecom line riser pole along East Church Avenue. View west, 04/10/15.



Figure 4 – Crews install a temporary patch over the trench for an underground telecom line along Lenore Street during the subject period. View south, 04/10/15.



Figure 5 – Crews install a temporary patch over the trench for an underground telecom line along Lenore Street during the subject period. View north, 04/10/15.