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# PROJECT MEMORANDUM DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT

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

**Date**: April 25, 2016

Subject: Monitoring Report #66 – April 11 to April 17, 2016

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 12, 2016.

Work Schedule: Work occurred Monday through Wednesday the week of April 11 - April 17.

#### **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. Removal and modification work is complete on components of the original Downs Substation.
- 2. Paving work was completed during the subject period within the fenced substation (see Figures 1, 2 & 3). The substation expansion area was 100% complete by the end of the week.
- 3. Stored materials were fully removed during the subject period.
- 4. The expanded Downs Substation has been operational since December 3, 2015.
- 5. 115 kV transformer banks in the expansion area were energized on January 15, 2016.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

- Landscaping was reviewed by the CPUC EM to confirm conformance with the approved Landscape
  Plan for the Downs Substation 115 kV Expansion; three Mexican fan palms shown in the plans were
  not installed because of potential safety risks associated with the trees being positioned below
  transmission lines along Ridgecrest Boulevard. SCE has notified the City of Ridgecrest of the changes
  and is requesting their concurrence.
- 2. Over time, the recently installed shrubs and trees (per the landscaping plan) have begun to show signs of stress. Some of the larger trees have experienced die-off. During the subject period the landscape architect observed the landscaping and changes to watering levels were implemented.

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- 3. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Best Management Practices (SWPPP BMPs) were followed appropriately during the subject period.
- 4. Work areas were clean and free of trash.
- 5. No track-out was observed during the subject period.
- 6. No dust issues were observed during the subject period.
- 7. Desert tortoise fencing was appropriately installed during fence installation work. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.

#### #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. Overhead fiber optic work was completed on September 29, 2016.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, SCE requested that the deadline for submitting the final technical report, concerning paleontological monitoring for the project, be extended to December 21, 2015 to allow for the inclusion of radiocarbon dating results. The extension request was approved. On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Paleontological Resources Monitoring Final Report was submitted to the CPUC. The CPUC provided a detailed review of the report, with recommended corrections, to SCE on January 13, 2016. A revised final report will be submitted in the coming weeks.

#### **Notices to Proceed**

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

# Table 1 Notices to Proceed (NTPs) (Updated 04/25/16)

NTP	Date Requested	Date 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 04/25/16)

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.
MPC #2	05/20/15	05/26/15	Downs Substation Expansion	Installation of privacy slats on all chain link fencing encompassing the perimeter of the Downs Substation, including the expansion area.

## **PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS**



Figure 1 – Driveway paving activities occurred during the subject period. View southeast 4/12/16.



Figure 2 – Driveway paving activities were completed during the subject period. View north, 4/12/16.







Figure 3 – Driveway renovation occurred during the subject period. View west, 4/4/16 top, 4/12/16 middle, 4/21/16 bottom.