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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 18, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 22, December 12 to December 18, 2011

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission and Red Bluff Substation Projects.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Additionally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) and non-compliance activities are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Jamie Miner and Rosina Gallego were on site December 12 through December 16.

## **CPUC NTPS**

### **DPV2 CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL YARDS**

NTP #1 was issued for construction and set-up of construction yards, including the Devers #1, Desert Center #1 (DC1), Desert Center #2 (DC2), Blythe, Beaumont #1, Menifee, and Perris Construction Yards.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. All major construction activities for the construction yards covered under this NTP were completed prior to the subject period. At this time, activities at these locations are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
2. Activities associated with the underground temporary power line at the Devers #1 Construction Yard continued through the subject period and included excavations at two locations for pull boxes (see Figure 1).

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a weekly spot check of the Summit, Desert Center #1, Desert Center #2, and Blythe Construction Yards on December 15. There were no non-compliance issues identified or reported at the construction yards during the subject period.
2. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit to the Devers #1 Construction Yard on December 13 to inspect underground trenching activities. SCE Monitors were onsite and no compliance issues were identified.
3. The SCE Biological Monitor conducted biological sweeps at all of the construction yards covered under NTP #1 during the subject period. No biological issues were reported and no special-status species were identified during these sweeps.
4. The CPUC EMs conducted spot checks at each of the construction yards covered under NTP #1 during the subject period. There were no non-compliance issues observed during these site visits.



## **DPV2 EXCLUSIONARY FENCING AT 41 TOWER LOCATIONS**

NTP #2 was issued by CPUC for the installation of Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*) and flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) exclusionary fencing at 41 tower locations between the Devers Substation and Indio.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. All major construction activities associated with exclusionary fencing under NTP #2 were completed prior to the subject period.

## **BEAUMONT #2 CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #3 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Beaumont #2 Construction Yard.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #3 were conducted during the subject period.

## **INDIO #1 CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #4 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Indio #1 Construction Yard.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. All major construction activities associated with the Indio #1 Construction Yard under NTP #4 were completed prior to the subject period. Activities occurring during the subject period at this location included minor site maintenance and deliveries only.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a spot check of the Indio #1 Construction Yard on December 15 and reported no non-compliance issues.
2. The SCE Biological Monitor conducted a biological sweep of the Indio #1 Construction Yard on December 12. During the sweep, the monitor examined construction materials for trapped wildlife. The monitor also recommended that any pooling rainwater on top of tarps covering materials be swept to deter wildlife. No special-status species were observed during the subject period.

## **RED BLUFF SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION (NON-BLM LANDS)**

NTP #5 was issued for upgrades of a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation on non-BLM lands.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. All major construction activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line were completed prior to the subject period.

## **COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION**

NTP #6 was authorized for the construction and occupation of the following components associated with the CRS on non-BLM lands: (1) extension of an existing 33 kV distribution line to supply substation light and power; (2) installation of a telecommunications line; and, (3) access road improvements (including a new access road driveway) to serve the CRS.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. Activities associated with the CRS distribution line included the installation of guidelines and crossbeams on the newly installed wooden poles, pulling wire, and securing clips.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. Throughout construction activities, kit fox burrows in, or near, the work areas were covered with plywood prior to contractor crews arriving and plywood was removed at the end of activities each day.
2. Prior to construction activities on December 16, a biological sweep was conducted along the distribution line. During this sweep, the SCE Biological Monitor discovered that the construction crew had driven their work vehicles outside of the approved access areas the previous day (see Figure 2). Since this incident occurred in occupied desert tortoise habitat, it was documented by SCE as a non-compliance event and reported in the daily report for December 16.

**DPV1 MINOR RELOCATION**

NTP #7 was authorized for the construction activities associated with the minor relocation of the existing Devers-Valley 500 kV transmission line as part of the DPV2 Project. These activities include the construction of stub roads, foundations, steel assembly, erection of four lattice steel towers (LSTs), and the installation of associated hardware assemblies and interconnecting wires. Activities will also include the removal of structures, foundations, associated hardware assemblies, and interconnecting wires for three existing LSTs.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #7 were conducted during the subject period.

**TRANSMISSION LINE: RED BLUFF SUBSTATION TO COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION**

NTP #8 was authorized for the construction of 31 miles of overhead 500 kV transmission line from CRS to the new Red Bluff Substation and the replacement of five miles of existing overhead ground wire (OHGW) with new optical ground wire (OPGW) on the existing Devers-Palo Verde No. 1 (DPV1) transmission line. Project elements associated with NTP #8 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No construction activities associated with NTP #8 were conducted during the subject period.

**TRANSMISSION LINE: DEVERS SUBSTATION TO RED BLUFF SUBSTATION**

NTP #9 was authorized for the construction of 81-miles of overhead 500 kV transmission line from the existing Devers Substation to the new Red Bluff Substation. Project elements associated with NTP #9 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No construction activities associated with NTP #9 were conducted during the subject period.

## **TRANSMISSION LINE: DEVERS SUBSTATION TO VALLEY SUBSTATION**

NTP #10 was authorized for the construction of the overhead 500 kV transmission line from the existing Devers Substation to the existing Valley Substation, excluding the portion of the line that would traverse the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) property. Project elements associated with NTP #10 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No construction activities associated with NTP #9 were conducted during the subject period.

## **DEVERS #2 AND INDIO #2 CONSTRUCTION YARDS**

NTP #11 was authorized for the construction and occupation of the Devers #2 and Indio #2 Construction Yards.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. Activities associated with the development of the Indio #2 Construction Yard commenced during the subject period. These included the installation of BMPs, vegetation clearing/grubbing, grading, and gravel placement activities (see Figure 3).
2. No construction activities associated with the development of the Devers #2 Construction Yard occurred during the subject period.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE General and Biological Monitors were onsite during construction activities throughout the subject period.
2. During the initiation of construction activities at the Indio #2 Construction Yard on December 15, a burrowing owl was observed utilizing a hole associated with a manmade steel electrical utility box approximately 100 feet north of the yard ingress/egress location (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM was notified via phone call from Ty Garrison, SCE Biological Lead, that day and was informed that SCE Biological Monitors would closely monitor activities. After consulting the Mitigation Measures, SCE determined that no buffer was required to continue work since the occurrence was not in the immediate project area and was not within the breeding season. However, avoidance practices, such as parking vehicles on the opposite side of the street and maintaining feasible parking buffers were implemented. The individual owl was monitored throughout the subject period and did not appear to exhibit any adverse effects from construction activities.
3. A loggerhead shrike was identified at the Indio #2 Construction Yard on December 15. The individual was observed atop vegetation and fled the area upon approach. No nest was found.

## **BLM NTPS**

### **DPV2 AND COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION**

BLM NTP #1 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the DPV2 Project on BLM lands, which included the Colorado River Substation and associated components.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. The majority of construction activities that occurred at the CRS site during the subject period were associated with development of the water well, including gravel filling, concrete pumping, and breaking down of drill rig and other equipment (see Figure 5).

2. Activities associated with the CRS distribution line (on BLM-lands) were identical to those explained above, and included the installation of guidelines and crossbeams on the newly installed wooden poles, pulling wire, and securing clips.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE General and Biological Monitors were onsite during construction activities throughout the subject period.
2. New project personnel were WEAP trained by SCE General Monitors throughout the subject period.
3. The CPUC EM received a text message from Sheree James, SCE Environmental Coordinator, on December 15 providing notification of a water release from well development that encroached a defined kit fox area the previous night. It was later determined that no water entered any of the burrows in the area. The area was monitored throughout the day by a kit fox monitor and was dry by the time the CPUC EM was onsite on December 15.
4. There were no non-compliance issues or special-status species observations reported by the SCE Monitors during the subject period.

**RED BLUFF SUBSTATION**

BLM NTP #2 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the Red Bluff Substation and the Desert Center Communication Site.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. Due to inadequate water production levels from previous drilling efforts, 24-hour drilling activities were reinitiated on December 12 at the same location; however, a deeper hole was targeted. Additional activities associated with the well drilling that occurred during the subject period included construction of berms and installation of SWPPP barriers for cuttings storage.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. All cuttings and tailings from drilling activities were fully contained and then spread onsite throughout the subject period (see Figure 6).
2. On December 15, the CPUC EM toured the site with Pete Lubich, ULM site rep, to review precautionary measures that had been implemented in anticipation of future water surface releases from well testing. Several locations where check dams and BMP structures had been constructed were examined (see Figure 7).

There were no non-compliance incidents reported or observed during the subject period.

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES DURING CONSTRUCTION (OTHER THAN CPUC EMS):**

None

**CPUC/BLM NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS)**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC/BLM Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the DPV2 and Red Bluff Projects, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**NTPs**  
(Updated 1/18/12)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<b>CPUC NTPs</b>				
NTP #1	04/28/11	06/23/11	Yards	Authorization to proceed with the development of the Devers, Desert Center 1, Desert Center 2, Summit, Blythe, Perris, Beaumont, and Menifee Construction Yards.
NTP #2	08/05/11	09/09/11	T/L	Installation of exclusionary fencing, Devers to Blythe. No cultural resources affected. Bio pending.
NTP #3	08/26/11	09/19/11	Yards	Construction of Beaumont Construction Yard #2.
NTP #4	09/09/11	09/20/11	Yards	Construction of Indio Construction Yard.
NTP #5	09/16/11	10/11/11	Red Bluff Distribution Line	Upgrades to a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation, non-BLM lands.
NTP #6	09/16/11	10/17/11	Substation	Authorization to proceed with improvements to the new Colorado River Substation on private lands, including extension of the existing 33 kV distribution line, installation of a new telecommunication line, and access road improvements.
NTP #7	09/09/11	12/01/11	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1).
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/01/11	T/L – CRS to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and replacement of existing DPV1 overhead ground wire; non-BLM lands.
NTP #9	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between the existing Devers Substation and the new Red Bluff Substation; non-BLM lands.
NTP #10	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.
NTP #11	11/08/11	12/09/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
<b>BLM NTPs</b>				
BLM NTP #1	08/26/11	09/19/11	DPV2 Substation, T/L	Authorization to proceed with construction of the DPV2 Transmission Line, Colorado River Substation, and associated project components on BLM lands.
BLM NTP #2	08/26/11	09/19/11	Substation	Construction of Red Bluff Substation and associated project components, BLM lands.

**VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS**

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 1/18/12)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #1	05/06/11	05/24/11	Devers-Valley	Construction of traditional lattice towers instead of "Tetra" towers at two locations (Structures #1139 and #1140)
VR #2	04/21/11	05/26/11	All	Revisions to Mitigation Measure B-7d pertaining to seasonal restrictions for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard to support consistency with conditions provided in the Biological Opinion.
VR #3	07/12/11	07/18/11	DC 1 & DC 2 Yards	Utilize offsite well location and installation of 12,000-gallon water tank for filling trucks.
VR #4	07/06/11	07/21/11	Menifee Yard	Expansion of Menifee Construction Yard, which would include approximately 5 acres of additional disturbance within the western portion of the parcel, for material storage and other activities.
VR #5	04/22/11	07/28/11	CRS Devers and Valley Substations, Series Capacitor Site	Modification of APM A-7 regarding carpooling for construction at substations.
VR #6	07/07/11	08/01/11	Menifee, Beaumont, Perris Yards	Request to remove Mitigation Measures B-13a and B-13b, and to modify B-1a, B-1a (revised), and B-7e pertaining to Western Riverside County MSHCP compliance.
VR #7	08/11/11	08/22/11	Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, Blythe Yards	Request to utilize offsite water hydrants at Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, and Blythe Construction Yards.
VR #8	08/26/11	08/27/11	Beaumont Yard	Request to install seeded jute netting along the property frontage at Beaumont Construction Yard.
VR #9	08/24/11	09/01/11	DC 2 Yard	Request for installation of temporary power poles outside of Desert Center 2 Construction Yard.
VR #10	08/26/11	09/01/11	Devers & Summit Yards	Utilize offsite water locations needed for dust suppression at Devers and Summit Construction Yards.
—	09/21/11	Retracted	Perris Yard	Request for additional workspace involving vegetation clearing, installation of BMPs, and temporary driveway installation at Perris Construction Yard.
VR #11	09/26/11	09/28/11	T/L	Two water sources for exclusionary fencing work.
VR #12	10/13/11	10/18/11	T/L	Request for parking/temporary staging of vehicles along existing access road within the Coachella Valley Preserve during exclusionary fencing activities.
VR #13	10/26/11	11/10/11	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers #1 Construction Yard.
VR #14	11/10/11	11/28/11	Substation	Request for increased well pumping to support civil work, including access road improvements, at Colorado River Substation.
VR #15	12/13/11	12/14/11	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #16	12/22/11	01/04/12	Project-wide	Request to approve alternate/extended work hours project-wide.
VR #17	01/04/12	01/09/12	Project-wide	Request to utilize existing approved construction yard and/or exclusionary fencing water sources for transmission line construction needs.
VR #18	10/25/12 10/26/12	Denied 01/13/12	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMRCP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Helicopter landing zone
VR #20	01/13/12	To CPUC	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
<b>BLM</b>				
BLM #1	10/18/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to install a temporary guard structure along the entrance of the existing transmission line access road for Colorado River Substation.
BLM #2	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
DNA #1	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
DNA #2	12/21/11	Under review	Red Bluff	Secondary well
DNA #3	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Imperial Irrigation District distribution line relocation

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 1/18/12)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description
#1	07/20/11	07/27/11	Blythe Yard	Use of offsite hydrant and installation of water tank at location adjacent to Blythe Construction Yard
#2	07/28/11	08/04/11	Menifee Yard	Use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, and a flexible hose to supply water to a 4,000 gallon water truck.
#3	08/16/11	08/16/11	Menifee Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, approximately 200 yards north of previously approved location.
—	09/06/11	Retracted	Devers Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, including installation of above ground pipeline and water towers.
#4	09/29/11	09/29/11	T/L	Use of parking areas along primary access road within 400-ft total distance exclusionary fencing locations with exception of sites within the Coachella Valley Preserve.

**NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

Table 4 provides a summary of reported non-compliance incidents.

**TABLE 4**  
**CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA**  
 (Updated 1/18/12)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
<b>CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)</b>			
PM #1	10/28/11	CRS Dist. Line	Construction vehicles leaving marked disturbance limits at two locations along Red Bluff distribution line.
<b>CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)</b>			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unauthorized removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Construction of a pull box site along the underground power alignment for the Devers #1 Construction Yard.



**Figure 2:** Vehicle tracks identified by SCE Biological Monitor outside defined disturbance area along CRS distribution line.



**Figure 3:** Development of the driveway at the Indio #2 Construction Yard.



**Figure 4:** Location (in background) where burrowing owl was observed at the Indio #2 Construction Yard.



**Figure 5:** Ongoing well development activities at the CRS site.



**Figure 6:** Earthen berm constructed to contain drill cuttings at the Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 7:** BMPs installed along drainage in anticipation of 24-hour well testing activities at the Red Bluff Substation site.