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## PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 6, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 32, February 20 to February 26, 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line and Red Bluff Substation Projects. This report is organized as follows:

- Transmission Line Construction
- Substation Construction and Upgrades
- Construction Yards and Other Workspaces

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):** Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

### TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

#### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) to Red Bluff Substation
  - Foundation drilling activities occurred at Tower 2649 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, and CR1-5E.
  - Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Tower 2649 and CRS Loop-in Tower CR1-2W (see Figure 1).
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
  - Spur road grading and activities associated with the installation of a wet crossing were conducted at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower RB1-4E. Additional grading occurred along the Red Bluff Loop-in access road and spur roads associated with Towers RB1-3E and RB2-2W. Crane pad grading occurred at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower RB1-2W, RB2-2W, and RB1-4E.
  - BMPs were installed at Red Bluff Loop-in Towers RB1-2W, RB2-2W, RB1-3E, and RB1-4E and their associated access/spur roads (see Figure 2).
  - Site verification surveys were conducted at Towers 2503, 2508-2526, and 2528-2532.
3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation
  - Vegetation clearing occurred at Towers 1011, 1012, and 1013.
  - Spur road and crane pad grading occurred at Towers 1012 and 1016 (see Figure 3).
  - Foundation drilling occurred at Towers 1061, R1, 1064, and R4 (see Figure 4).
  - Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Tower 1061, R1, 1064, and R4 (see Figure 5).
  - Shaker plate installation occurred at all right-of-way (ROW) entrances at Tipton Road, off of Worsley Road between Towers 1010 and 1007, and off Diablo Road near the Devers Substation.
  - Site verification surveys occurred at Towers 1001 – 1012, 1015, 1055, and 1065.



## **Environmental Compliance**

- Biological and Archaeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- Approved monitors for Coachella Valley milk-vetch were onsite for all ground disturbing activities at applicable tower sites and completed clearance surveys before construction occurred.
- Fugitive dust control was noted by SCE general and biological monitors at all construction sites and access roads. CPUC EM's also observed adequate dust control at all construction sites and access roads (see Figure 6).
- A desert tortoise was relocated by SCE Biological Monitors from outside of the defined disturbance area at Tower 2514 on February 23. The tortoise was barricaded in a new burrow offsite. Subsequent spot checks of the relocated tortoise were conducted daily throughout the subject period.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Transmission Line activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

### **Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

## **SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES**

### **Summary of Activity**

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – Activities associated with the development of the substation and primary access road that occurred during the subject period included rough grading and drainage installation. BMPs were also installed and/or maintained as appropriate along the access road and within the substation limits.
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – No major activities were conducted along the CRS telecomm line during the subject period.
3. Series Capacitor (BLM Lands) – Survey staking activities associated with the Series Capacitor distribution line were conducted.
4. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – Major vegetation removal and grading (cut and fill) activities continued at the Red Bluff Substation site throughout the subject period (see Figure 7). During site grading, rocks are being salvaged for subsequent use at the site. Well development activities were limited to a continued pumping of underground water to onsite Baker tanks. BMPs were maintained when and where necessary during the subject period.

## **Environmental Compliance**

- SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
- Two minor spills at CRS were observed and reported by SCE monitors during the subject period. On February 22, a hydraulic hose burst on a scraper. The subsequent hydraulic fluid spill was immediately reported to the SCE monitors by the equipment operator and was less than two gallons in volume. A bobcat was used to remove approximately six inches of topsoil until no fluid could be detected by sight or smell. On the following day, a second hydraulic fluid spill of less than 16 ounces in volume was identified by the SCE Biological Monitor, who immediately notified the SCE General Monitor. Again, a bobcat was used to remove the contaminated topsoil from the spill location. In both circumstances, the contaminated soil was contained and removed from the site and the equipment was quickly repaired by the onsite mechanic.

- On February 24, the SCE Biological Monitor reported that food had been left underneath a worker's vehicle during construction of the culverts along the CRS access road. The trash was properly disposed of and the issue was addressed at the tailboard meeting that same afternoon.
- During grading activities within the Red Bluff Substation disturbance limits, SCE monitors were onsite to ensure that desert pavement was adequately salvaged per mitigation requirements.
- The main hydraulic line on a scraper ruptured during grading activities at the Red Bluff Substation site on February 22 resulting in a spill of approximately 25 gallons of hydraulic fluid (see Figure 8). Plastic sheeting and absorbent pads were immediately placed under the equipment to prevent further soil contamination. The fluid and contaminated soil were removed and placed in two 55-gallon drums and hauled offsite. According to the Spill Log/Report, the Riverside County Health-Hazmat Department and CAL-EMA were notified. A follow up call from Riverside County indicated that no further actions were required.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Substation Construction and Upgrade activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

**CONSTRUCTION YARDS AND OTHER WORKSPACES**

**Summary of Activity:**

Non-Federal Lands:

Blythe Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Desert Center 1 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Desert Center 2 Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Chiriaco Summit Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio 2 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Devers Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Devers 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Beaumont Yard (Material Yard) - No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Beaumont 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Menifee Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Perris Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. This yard is not currently being utilized.

**Environmental Compliance:**

- Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Construction yard activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**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 04/06/12)

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 #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/02/11	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	12/10/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
NTP #12	01/20/12	02/03/12	Yards	Construction of Desert Center 3 Construction Yard.
<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 04/06/12)

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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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.
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 MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Request to allow the usage of helicopter landing zone H9-DV as a replacement for H8-DV.
VR #20	01/13/12	01/19/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
VR#21	01/20/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Lake Tamarisk area for dust suppression

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #21 Mod	03/16/12	03/21/12	T/L	Modification to VR #21. Request installation of two driveways and an underground water line adjacent to the approved stand tank locations at the Lake Tamarisk Resort water source.
VR #22	01/25/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request to install 10,000-gallon standing water tanks at three locations.
VR #23	01/27/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request to modify NTP #10 and MM AQ-1g for additional t-line helicopter construction.
VR #24	02/08/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request for approval to purchase MWD water credits in lieu of Colorado River water credits due to the unavailability of water allotments within the Colorado River Basin.
VR #25	02/10/12	02/28/12	T/L	Request for use of existing DPV1 access roads and spur/stub roads for parking and staging of vehicles and equipment.
VR #26	03/09/12	03/16/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located on a private date farm.
VR #27	03/09/12	03/20/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
VR #28	03/22/12	03/30/12	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
VR #29	03/22/12	04/04/12	T/L	DVP1 minor relocation of outage pull sites.
	03/16/12	Under review	T/L	HLS H7-DV boundary modification.
	03/16/12	Under review	Substation	Red Bluff Loop-in pull site modifications.
	03/23/12	Under review	Substation	CRS pull sites.
	03/28/12	Under review	Substation	Request for HLZ (helicopter landing zone) at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower site RB1-2W.
	04/04/12	Under review	T/L	Request for a HLZ and temporary disturbance area shifts.
	04/06/12	Under review	Substation	Additional water sources @ Red Cloud Road, Red Bluff Substation.
<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	02/01/12	Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Request to relocate a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District distribution line located at the Series Capacitor site.
	02/01/12	Under review	T/L	Request for the addition of proposed helicopter construction and maintenance platforms to the description included in the Project Refinements 1 and 2 documents.
	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.
	04/04/12	Under Review	Substation	Red Bluff Substation access road realignment.
<b>USFS</b>				
USFS-1	03/15/12	Under Review	T/L	SBNF engineering modifications (revised disturbance areas).

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/06/12)

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 04/06/12)

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 CRS distribution line.
PM #2	01/18/12	Tower 2649/ CR1-2W	DPV2 Construction contractor vehicle driving outside of the approved tower and access road disturbance area limits.
PM #3	03/08/12	Tower 1059 & 1060	Failure to comply with MM B-5 which requires that 300-foot buffers are established around active bird nests. Working within unapproved active nest buffers.
PM #4	04/04/12	Tower 2515, 2520, & 2526	Impacts to desert pavement at Towers 2520 and 2526 by not implementing one of the approved methods stated in the revised Desert Pavement Plan. Impacts to desert tortoise habitat when a road was built near Tower 2515 that was not approved.
<b>CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)</b>			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unapproved removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1.** Foundation concrete pouring occurring at Tower CR1-2W.



**Figure 2.** BMPs installed along access road associated with loop-in towers just east of Red Bluff Substation.



**Figure 3.** Spur road and crane pad grading at Tower 1016.



**Figure 4.** Foundation drilling at Tower R1.



**Figure 5.** Concrete Pouring for foundations at Tower 1064.



**Figure 6.** Fugitive dust control measures being implemented along new spur road to RB1-3E.



**Figure 7.** Ongoing vegetation removal and grading activities at the Red Bluff Substation.



**Figure 8.** Clean up efforts for hydraulic fluid spill at Red Bluff Substation (photo courtesy of Ryan Rezek).