



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 21, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #7: September 12, 2004 – September 18, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

Weather was clear throughout the subject week and the thunderstorms in the area did not impact the project.

FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The transmission line contractor continued boring in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted site visits on September 15 and 16. Foundation boring and concrete pouring activities occurred while the CPUC EM was on-site.

The large boulders and bedrock at Site 1300 have been removed using a rock hammer instead of blasting. In addition, the contractor is currently using a chemical expansion agent to fracture the bedrock at the site (see Figure 1).

The transmission line contractor, PAR, continued working on foundations during the subject week. A boring crew completed excavation of the bore hole for the tower foundation at Site 1290 and was preparing to move to the next location to reset (see Figure 2). Another PAR crew worked on drilling the foundation at Site 1320. An Essex EI was on-site with the PAR crew.

Environmental Compliance:

A water truck was on-site at the drilling locations and on the access road to the concrete pour at Site 1400 to address fugitive dust. Temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations.

An Essex environmental monitor was on-site for the boring work at Sites 1300, 1320 and 1290. No significant environmental compliance issues were noted at the sites. The crew took care to minimize noise and fugitive dust at the sites due to the proximity of houses to Sites 1290 and 1320.

LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The grading and clearing activities continued in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week.

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on September 15 and 16. The work occurred at Site 92 and between Tower Sites 797 and 942 during the site visit. Both grading contractors, Union and DCX, have crews operating on the segment at this time.

The clearing crew worked on Site 92, near Sweetwater Reservoir to prepare for grading activities. The grading crews completed work at Site 873 and moved to Site 912 to start splitting the large boulders on the site (see Figure 3). Due to the rocks and side slope, SDG&E made minor changes to the pad width and the major work at Site 912 was completed. The Union crew then moved to Site 932 and worked on the steep side slope (see Figure 4).

The CPUC EM reviewed previously unanticipated clearing and grading at pole location D with the Essex EI and representatives from SDG&E. Although the site was not marked on the plans for clearing and grading, the area has been surveyed for cultural and biological resources and was cleared for impact in the project documents. The CPUC EM didn't observe any additional impacts to the area due to the change to grading at the site.

Environmental Compliance:

The clearing crew is aware that the access roads need to be watered if fugitive dust is observed leaving the right-of-way. A water truck was on-site to control fugitive dust during the grading activities. An Essex EI was on-site for both the clearing and grading work. The CPUC EM walked the right-of-way from the western access gate to Tower Site 912 and did not observe any environmental compliance issues (see Figure 5).

A staging and storage area is located adjacent to a residential school for children and SDG&E followed up on a request by school staff to not install screening and allow the children to view the construction activity. SDG&E had obtained Director approval not to install the screening and has forwarded the approval to the CPUC EM. The sensitive plant resources in the area have been marked with yellow exclusion tape; however, a crane operator unloaded two tower sections that encroached on the ambrosia buffer area (see Figure 6). The CPUC EM was notified of the issue by SDG&E and they were already in the process of getting the tower sections moved away from the buffer zone. No impacts to the sensitive species occurred due to the operator error. SDG&E will work to avoid this problem on the delivery of materials in the future.

The fencing/screening issue at the staging area on Hillsdale Road is still pending. The existing vegetation on the north side of the SDG&E easement creates a natural screen and the property owner on the south side has requested that no temporary fence be installed. SDG&E is working with the adjacent property owners on construction of a more decorative permanent fence and has received letters from the property owners requesting that no temporary fence be installed.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. SDG&E has not requested any additional NTPs at this time.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No variance requests have been submitted for review during the subject week.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 09/21/04)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of four storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15.	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04

UPCOMING ITEMS: SDG&E will hold weekly meetings on Tuesday mornings to review issues and upcoming events.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 09/21/04)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #1
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	08/27/04

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

Photographs



Figure 1 – The PAR crew at Tower Site 1300 used a chemically expansive material to fracture the bedrock in the foundation hole.



Figure 2 – The PAR boring crew finished at Tower Site 1290 and is preparing to move to the next location.



Figure 3 – A special crew worked at hydraulically splitting the boulders at Site 912.



Figure 4 – The Union crew at Site 932 worked on removing loose boulders and soil from the side slope.



Figure 5 – The CPUC EM walked the right-of-way west of Site 912 to review environmental compliance.



Figure 6 – Tower sections were placed within the buffer of the ambrosia exclusion area by an operator error. The poles were moved back from the exclusion area.