



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** November 10, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #14: October 31, 2004 – November 6, 2004  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The project area was finally drying out after several days of heavy rain during the previous week. Both the project area and surrounding County experienced significant erosion, sedimentation, and flooding. There was no rain during the CPUC EM site visit.

### **FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT**

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on November 2 and 3. Crews worked on pole erection and drilling in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the site visit.

A crew worked to place the tops on the tower bases that had previously been erected (see Figure 1). The work was delayed on November 2 due to mechanical problems with the crane working east of Santee Lakes. Crews continued to work out of the Summit Road yard with no complaints received from the local residents (see Figure 2).

A drilling crew continued work on the hard bedrock at Site 1300 (see Figure 3). Several different drilling machines and crews have worked on the exceptionally hard material at this site.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Although Temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations, the heavy rains have caused erosion and sediment along the segment. Crews worked to repair the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the recent storms. Rock was placed at several locations to minimize tracking of mud onto the public right-of-way.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the segment. Several hawks were observed between Santee Lakes and the Summit Road yard (see Figure 4).

### **LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT**

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

Grading, drilling and erosion control activities occurred in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week.

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on November 2 and 3. Several crews were working throughout the segment during the site visit; however, access was a problem at several locations despite the condition of most of the right-of-way.

A drilling machine attempted to access sites west of Tower Site 661, but could not make it up the road due to damage and moisture from the past week's rainfall (see Figure 5). The crew will move the drilling machine to an alternate location and continue work until the access road can be repaired.

The grading crew attempted to access Tower Site 181, but encountered a section of very soft material and one of the dump trucks became stuck. The excavator was brought down to free the truck, but work did not resume. The access road will be repaired to allow easier wheeled-vehicle access (see Figure 6).

**Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM noted that the contractor has used the time between the storms to address many of the SWPPP issues from the previous weeks. Many of the water bars have been removed, but the access roads are passable. The water bars on the steep access road to Tower Site 440 were completely washed away, resulting in sediment on the public road and into the adjacent storm drain. Crews cleaned the sediment from the public road at this location and placed rock to control tracking of mud onto the street (see Figure 7).

The CPUC EM spoke with SDG&E about the BMP concerns following the site visit. SDG&E will be working to address the issues and modify the procedures to avoid future erosion and sedimentation problems.

**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:**

On October 20, SDG&E submitted Variance Request #6 to work one Sunday, October 31, at Tower Site 925 to complete outage work on the weekend per California ISO requirements. The CPUC approved the variance request on October 26, conditional on San Diego County approval. SDG&E obtained permission from the County to work on Sunday if the work cannot be completed on Saturday, October 30. The County restricted the start of work on Sunday until after 10am. Despite a later start on Saturday, the crew was able to complete the work at the site under the outage and did not need to work on Sunday.

**WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION MEETING:**

The CPUC EM attended the Tuesday morning construction meeting. The meeting covered construction progress, safety, the construction schedule, environmental issues, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issues.

Additional drilling machines are expected to arrive on the project this week and early next week to bring the total to seven. Four of these are auger/core type drilling machines and the other three are for the blasting contractor to prepare sites for blasting. The blasting contractor has submitted plans to SDG&E for review and plans to start blasting in the next weeks.

The grading crews will be finished on the project in this week or next week. Union will work with Essex to obtain the correct seed-mix for restoration and address the slopes before leaving the project. Several different methods are being reviewed to broadcast the seed-mix over the restored areas of the right-of-way depending on the access and slope.

SDG&E worked with Essex to identify and resolve SWPPP issues following from the recent storms. The contractor obtained additional materials and crews to address the erosion control and sediment clean-up issues on the project. Twelve of the 13 areas identified as needing rock at access road entrances have been completed. Silt fencing was placed in several areas where the straw wattles had not been effective during the storms.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 11/10/04)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five 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
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	10/06/04
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Completed	10/26/04

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

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

**TABLE 2**  
**TEWS TRACKING**  
(Updated 11/10/04)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date <sup>1</sup>
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #2

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

\*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – The newly erected pole with the top installed can be seen on the left side of the photograph (taken looking west from Summit Road yard).



**Figure 2** – Overview of the Summit Road yard looking east.



**Figure 3** – The drilling crew continued working at Tower Site 1300.



**Figure 4** – Several raptors were observed above Santee Lakes and the Summit Road yard. The raptors were using the lattice towers for perching.



**Figure 5** – Moisture and erosion made access for large equipment impossible in some areas.



**Figure 6** – Moisture and erosion made access for trucks impossible in some areas.



**Figure 7** – The sediment at Tower Site 440 has been cleaned from the public right-of-way and the spoil pile stabilized.