



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: April 27, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #38: April 17 – April 23, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO MIGUEL 138/69 kV ACTIVITIES, NTP #1 AND #2

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on April 20 and April 21 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Various types of construction activity were observed during the site visit. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 included the following:

1. The Woodward crew finished working at Pole Site 30 and demobilized from the project during the subject week. The crew was loading the crane onto a flatbed truck for removal from the project during the CPUC EM site visit.
2. A PAR grading crew worked at Pole Sites 41 to level a section of the access road for the crane to set the pole sections (see Figure 1). Once the pad was completed, the crane moved to the site to unload the pole sections and raise the steel pole. The work and resultant impact was restricted to the area cleared for biological resources around the pad site.
3. A PAR crew worked on the access road between Pole Site 41 and Pole Site 100 assembling the upper section of a steel pole. The crew set the trucks and equipment in the road, but temporarily set the steel pole in the vegetation during the off-loading process and set an air compressor in the vegetation during the assembly process. The incident is discussed in the Environmental Compliance section below.

Environmental Compliance:

1. The PAR crew on the access road between Pole Site 41 and Pole Site 100, who set the steel pole and air compressor off of the approved right-of-way, was notified of the compliance issue and the area reviewed by the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI). The crew set the trucks and equipment in the road, but temporarily set the steel pole in the vegetation during the off-loading process and set an air compressor in the vegetation during the assembly process (see Figure 2). Although the pole was swung back over the road for assembly of the arms, the crew continued to walk over the vegetation to get around the work area. The area was not cleared for work as a workspace on the project and was between two areas of known California coastal gnatcatchers. The CPUC EM reviewed the incident with SDG&E and the Essex EI. The PAR crew involved in the off right-of-way impacts on the access road has not had any environmental compliance issues on the project and were reminded of the environmental conditions for working in environmentally sensitive areas. Due to minor off right-of-way impacts in the past months, a Project Non-Compliance Report (NCR) was issued. This is the first NCR issued on the project.

2. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project are now starting to get new vegetation. Depending on the schedule for restoration of the rest of the disturbed sites, revegetation may have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to summer.
3. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms.
4. The road to Fanita Junction needed repair before work could continue. The access road was covered with mud and grading would just force the mud off the approved access road. The CPUC EM previously reminded SDG&E that the mud from the access road could not be pushed outside the footprint of the existing access road. However, as previously reported, some mud has been pushed from the road during recent grading activities and will have to be addressed prior to any rains. Most of the excess mud has been removed, but the site still has not been restored or stabilized (see Figure 3).
5. An Essex EI was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project. Biologists worked to survey gnatcatcher areas prior to construction. The construction crews were reminded by Essex that surveys need to be conducted prior to work in many areas. In addition, although some brushing activities may to be completed after the March 1 deadline under Variance Request #10, the cut vegetation should be moved away from the contiguous habitat immediately and under the supervision of an EI.

MISSION TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION 230 kV ACTIVITIES, NTPs #3 AND #4

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on April 20 and April 21 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent and temporary 230 kV systems.

PERMANENT 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #3 was issued to address 230 kV work on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar prior to the NTP for all 230 kV work to address the expiration of a permit with the Navy. NTP #4 addressed the permanent upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations. The following were the main construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. Wilson Construction crews worked on pulling conductor between Fanita Junction and Pole 1210 during the subject week. A crew in the pulling site east of Pole 1210 worked to secure the eastern end of the conductor after the proper sag in the line had been achieved (see Figure 4).

TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Other than clearing of vegetation prior to March 1, Wilson is waiting to complete their temporary 230 kV work between Miguel to Los Coches Substations until after PAR completes the work on the 138 kV system and the temporary stringing of conductor. Once PAR has finished work on the segment, the Wilson Construction crews will start the upgrades to the existing towers. The installation of the temporary wood poles has been completed. Although the steel 138 kV poles currently being installed by PAR between Los Coches and the Miguel Substation will be permanent, the 230 kV conductor is being strung temporarily to facilitate the early energization of the line. The following were the main construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. A helicopter was used to string line east of Steele Canyon High School during the site visit. The pilot in the helicopter worked with crews in man-lifts to string the line on the steep side slope near Wind River Road, across Willow Glen Road and up and over the hill to Steele Canyon High School (see Figure 5). Crews stopped traffic on Willow Glen Road and Steele Canyon Road while the line was being strung for safety. The end of the section was anchored in the yard across from Steele Canyon High School. Crews working in man-lifts made the necessary connections in preparation for pulling conductor after the helicopter strung the line (see Figure 6).

Environmental Compliance:

1. A water truck was used to keep fugitive dust down in the open field used for stringing across from Pole Site 1210 (see Figure 7).
2. A red-tailed hawk nest is on the lattice tower adjacent to the work across from Steele Canyon High School. A hawk was observed sitting on the nest and returned to the nest following the helicopter activity on the adjacent steel pole.
3. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms.
4. An Essex EI has been working closely with the Wilson crews to perform any necessary training and arrange for any required biological surveys. An Essex biologist was observed performing surveys at Pole Site 5/7 during the subject week.

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. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On April 15, SDG&E submitted Variance Request #15 to allow evening and Sunday work with CPUC EM approval. This request was approved by the CPUC on April 19.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 04/27/05)

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
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05
9	02/16/05	Perform construction activities on Sunday, February 20 at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 on the project during the 2004/2005 nesting season.	Completed	3/22/05
11	03/14/05	Work after 7pm at Pole 411 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	03/16/05
12	03/14/05	Work on Sunday, March 20 to string cable at eight towers to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule. Modification added for line work north of Los Coches Substation.	Completed	03/17/05
13	03/28/05	Work on Cesar Chavez holiday, Thursday March 31.	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 to string cable to comply with Caltrans/ Highway Patrol lane closure requirements.	Completed	3/30/05
15	04/15/05	Programmatic variance to work on outside the approved construction schedule with prior approval from the CPUC EM.	Completed	4/19/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 04/27/05)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
*	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
7	Los Coches to Miguel	02/11/05	Southwest of Pence Road, San Diego County	Approved from 02/16 to 04/16	02/16/05
8	Los Coches to Miguel	03/11/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/16 to 05/16	03/16/05
9	Mission to Fanita	03/18/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/21 to 05/21	03/21/05
10	Los Coches to Miguel	03/29/05	PAR staging and show-up yard on Jamacha Road.	Approved from 03/29 to 05/29	03/29/05

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

Photographs



Figure 1 – The PAR grading crew worked to prepare a pad for the crane on the access road.



Figure 2 – The PAR crew worked on the access road to attach the arms to the upper section of a steel pole.



Figure 3 – The soil pushed off the access road at Fanita Junction needs to be cleaned and the area restored.



Figure 4 – The Wilson crew anchored the conductor across from Pole Site 1210.



Figure 5 – A helicopter was used to string line in the Steele Canyon area.



Figure 6 – The stringing crew prepared to tie-off the line at the end of the section.



Figure 7 – The string crew watered the right-of-way to control fugitive dust near residences.