



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 12, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #68: January 1 – January 7, 2006  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

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

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

The 138 kV work on the segment has been completed and the PAR crews have demobilized from the project. Clean up and final restoration, including Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) issues, will continue in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2. No weekly reports were produced between December 17<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

##### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project have revegetated. SDG&E determined that revegetation of remaining sites would have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to summer. Plans are underway to plant prior to the onset of the winter rains and some sites have been hand-seeded by the SDG&E/Essex Environmental Inspector (EI). SDG&E has secured a contractor to complete the reseeded and work will commence in early-January (originally scheduled to start the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>). Reseeding site preparation includes the removal of any excess material or spoils, and the decompaction of the sites.

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

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

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to review the construction and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent 230 kV system and the activities related to the Otay Mesa Power Purchase Agreement Project (OMPPA) that are covered under NTP #4 of the Miguel-Mission 230 kV #2 Project.

##### **TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION**

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. The temporary 230 kV system has been completed and the temporary line was energized on June 1, 2005.

##### **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. Construction of the permanent 230 kV system was delayed due to ISO restrictions on line outages and restarted on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Work observed during the site visit, included the following:

1. Due to problems securing power outages on adjacent lines, the Wilson crews worked on installing insulators during the site visit. The crews worked on the towers off Millar Ranch Road and then proceeded to Tower 61, east of the Miguel Substation (see Figure 1). The work was restricted to the previously disturbed areas and an SDG&E/Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site during the operation.
2. Wilson crews have completed some grading activities at the Miguel Substation to accommodate stringing sites. Although this work was completed outside of the time covered by the CPUC EM, cultural resource monitors had been scheduled to be present during ground disturbing activities and BMPs have been placed to protect the area from erosion and to minimize sediment travel (see Figure 2).
3. PAR Construction continued conductor replacement activities between Towers 576668 and 576667 across the San Diego River (see Figure 3). Crews worked on both sides of the San Diego River canyon and a third crew set up on the road south of the river to protect the distribution lines (see Figure 4). During the stringing operation, the SDG&E conductor was dropped and contacted the live distribution line along the road directly below the tower. It was reported to the CPUC EM that this contact caused the conductor to break. The crew worked with the Essex EI to attach a line to the broken conductor and raise it again. Impacts to vegetation were minimized by raising the conductor instead of dragging it through the vegetation. No injuries or accidental outages were reported to the CPUC EM as a result of this accident.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. SDG&E has been maintaining BMPs on the tower pads and dirt tracked onto public streets is cleaned up at the end of each day. Rain over the weekend slowed travel on some of the access roads on Tuesday, but the roads had dried considerably by Wednesday.
2. South Coast Erosion, a Wilson subcontractor, was brought onto the project to place, maintain, and improve BMPs on the project to prepare for the up coming rains and to maintain BMPs now that the rainy season has started. The Testing Engineers inspector has prepared a punch-list with BMP issues that still need to be addressed. Many of the access roads maintained by SDG&E crews not related to the project were graded dry and have been subsequently compacted to minimize erosion during use by the project.

#### **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<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup>. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, CPUC issued NTP #4 – Revised, reflecting the inclusion of the Otay Mesa Power Purchase Agreement (OMPPA) Project and use of certain variance requests during construction where the OMPPA Project parallels the Miguel-Mission Project from the Miguel Substation to Fanita Junction.

#### **VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, SDG&E requested starting work at 6:00 a.m. for four days, under Programmatic Variance Request 15 in order to complete SDG&E line work across the San Diego River and thereby allowing Palomar Energy to complete testing of the area system on schedule. This request for accelerating the work originated with Cal ISO. The request was approved; however, the early start turned out to be unnecessary.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, SDG&E submitted Variance Requests 23 to allow work on the Martin Luther King holiday. This variance was approved by CPUC on January 11. Table 1 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 01/12/06)

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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> .	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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> .	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 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
16	5/05/05	Work on Sunday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/05/05
17	5/09/05	Parking of a crane truck in the vegetation approximately 500 feet southwest of Site 10.	Completed	5/10/05
18	05/11/05	Work on Sunday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/12/05
19	05/20/05 MOD- 5/27/05	Waiver from the 30-day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line as required by Mitigation Measure PS-2a.	Request Rescinded 6/8/05	N/A
20	05/26/05	Work on Sunday, May 29 <sup>th</sup> to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	5/31/05
21	09/08/05	Work on Sunday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	09/15/05
22	10/04/05	Four stringing sites for permanent 230 kV construction.	Completed	10/05/05
23	01/10/06	Work on the Martin Luther King Holiday, Monday January 16 <sup>th</sup> .	Completed	01/11/06

**UPCOMING ITEMS:** On January 10, the CPUC EM was notified by SDG&E that PAR Construction will be moving over to the Fanita Junction area (and then heading north towards Sycamore Canyon substation) and working on the sections of the project that are under the OMPPA EIR . They will return to the expanded pad sites above Los Coches Substation for a few days next week to fix the sites, but they will not be working on any other MM#2 EIR covered work for awhile. SDG&E will notify the CPUC EM when PAR returns to the MM#2 EIR work from Los Coches to Fanita Junction. Wilson will continue to work in the Los Coches to Miguel Substation section.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS:**

Table 2 presents the Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) Requests processed to date.

**TABLE 2**  
**TEWS TRACKING**  
(Updated 01/12/06)

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
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; Extended from 07/18 to 09/18	07/18/05
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
11	Los Coches to Miguel	04/29/05	Placement of two cranes to create a guard structure south of Hwy. 94.	Approved from 04/29 to 06/29	04/29/05
12	Los Coches to Mission	12/08/05	Expansion of stringing site above Los Coches Substation.	Approved from 12/07 to 2/07	12/07/05
13	Los Coches to Mission	12/08/05	Expansion of tower pad above Los Coches Substation.	Approved from 12/08 to 2/07	12/08/05

<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** – Wilson worked on installing insulators above the Miguel Substation.



**Figure 2** – Wilson crews performed grading for a stringing site at Miguel and installed BMPs.



**Figure 3** – PAR crews working to replace conductor over the San Diego River span.



**Figure 4** – PAR crews working both above the Los Coches Substation and on the south side of the San Diego River canyon to protect the crossing distribution lines.