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# PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E'S SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC **From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** May 2, 2011

**Subject:** Weekly Report 31 – April 17 to April 23, 2011

#### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project. 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 with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Finally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace and non-compliance activity are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM): Cassandra Garza, Brian Woodward and Valerie Yep

#### TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

## **Summary of Activity:**

1. Link 1, 500 kV Overhead Transmission Line:

#### Non-Federal Lands:

- Conventional foundation installation and concrete pour occurred at Tower EP 220.
- Foundation QA/QC performed at EP 209, EP 210, EP 211, EP 213, EP 214, EP 215, EP 218-1, EP 219-1, EP 240, EP 243, and EP 244.
- Conventional structure assembly occurred at EP 208, EP 209-1, EP 210, EP 211, EP 213, EP 214, EP 215, EP 218-1, EP 219-1, EP 243, and EP 244.
- Micropile concrete cap installation occurred at EP 231-1, EP 231A, EP 235-1, and EP 238-1.

#### **BLM Lands:**

- Conventional foundation drilling occurred at EP336.
- Desert pavement removal and salvaging occurred at EP341, EP343, and EP344 (see Figure 1).
- Road work took place at EP329, EP331 to EP341, EP343, EP344, EP345, and on the access road between Evan Hewes Highway and Plaster City Yard.
- 2. Link 2, 500 kV Overhead Transmission Line:

# Non-Federal Lands:

- Micropile preparation, drilling, trimming and testing occurred at Tower EP79, EP 80, and EP84.
- On Monday, April 18, 2011, it was discovered that vandals had lit a bonfire overnight on the access road to EP 84. Wattles were removed from around the work site and lit on fire. Two Link Leads discovered and extinguished the fire. No biological damage occurred because the fire occurred on bare ground (see Figures 2 & 3).

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- 3. Link 4, 220 kV Underground Transmission Line (non-federal lands only):
  - Potholing occurred at Vaults V8R to V9R, V15R, V16R, and V17R.
  - Excavating occurred at V17R.
  - Ins-and-outs occurred at V6L, V4L, V7L, V8L, V11L to V13L, V12L, and V15L.
  - Trenching occurred between V6L to V8L, V8R to V9R, and V11L to V13L
  - Pre-drilling and drilling occurred between the Interstate 8 bore site and V2L, V4L and V5L, and V8R and V9R.
  - Saw cutting occurred at the Alpine Creek bore site, V2L to V4L, V18R, and V8R to V9R.
  - Encasement pouring occurred between V6L and V9L
  - Proofing occurred at V16L, V15L, and V17L.
  - Milling and setting plates occurred at V4L, V6L to V7L, V11L to V12L, and V17R.
  - Paving occurred at V8L, V7L, and V12L to V13L.
  - Vaults were set at V17R and V18R.
  - Soldier beams were installed at the Alpine Creek bore site.
  - Grading occurred at the Loritz property.
  - Work continued at the Interstate 8 bore site.
  - No activity occurred at the Bauer Bridge location due to active nest buffer restrictions.
- 4. Link 5, 220 kV Overhead Transmission Line:

## Non-Federal Lands:

- Conventional foundations were drilled at Tower CP25-2 and CP26.
- Work on the 69 kV Reconductoring Line Tie Line (TL) 6916 continued. On TL 6916, approximately 50 feet of underground work occurred, including trenching, laying conduit, pouring slurry, and asphalt work.
- No work occurred on TL 639 during this reporting period.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. Biological, Cultural, and Native American monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- 2. BMPs were installed or refreshed on access roads, TSAPs, and pads associated with structures on Link 1:

#### Non-Federal Lands:

None.

#### BLM Lands:

- EP313, EP329, EP330, and EP336.
- 3. BMPs were installed or refreshed on access roads, TSAPs, and pads associated with structures on Link 2:

# Non-Federal Lands:

EP84.

#### **BLM Lands:**

None.

- 4. BMP installation and/or maintenance continued along Alpine Boulevard and the Loritz property, Link 4 (non-federal lands only).
- 5. Link 4: On April 20, a release of approximately 4 ounces of diesel fuel during fueling occurred at Vault 7L, near 1400 Alpine Boulevard, and was immediately contained and cleaned up. On April 21, a release of less than 2 ounces of hydraulic fluid from the backhoe and an addition release of less than 4 ounces of hydraulic fluid from a backhoe attachment occurred near Alpine Boulevard and Alpine Spring Road, and was immediately contained and cleaned up. Reporting was made for all of the Link 4 releases to the San Diego County Storm Water Hotline.
- 6. Link 5 (non-federal lands): 69 kV Reconductoring: On April 19, a release of approximately 2-3 ounces of hydraulic fluid from a bobcat was reported at 9930 Rue Biarritz, and was immediately contained and cleaned up. Reporting was made to the City of San Diego, Storm Water Reporting.
- 7. Pre-Construction surveys were performed throughout Link 1, 2 and 5 with appropriate monitors.

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

# Agency Representatives during Construction (other than EMs):

None.

## SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES

# **Summary of Activity:**

- 1. Suncrest Substation: Link 3 (non-federal lands): Rough grading continued on the pad. Drilling and blasting continued on both the eastern and western hills. Rock and soil were excavated in various locations on the pad and compacted in the southern portion of the pad. Work began on the block retaining wall in the northern drainage (see Figure 4). Installation of the permanent drainage system continued. Concrete pouring began in the brow ditches along both the pad and access road.
- 2. Imperial Valley Substation Upgrade (BLM lands): Conventional foundations were drilled and structures were assembled. Gas circuit breakers, potential transformers, switch stands, and bus supports were installed. Trenching occurred in Bay #4 for cable vaults to tie into the control building. Concrete pads and conduits were worked on in Bay #4. Disconnects and circuit breakers were installed in Bay #3.
- 3. San Luis Rey Substation (non-federal lands): Work was completed in Bay #5. Conventional structure assembly continued. Upgrades occurred to the 69 kV bus.
- 4. Encina Substation (non-federal lands): Conventional foundations were drilled and conventional structure assembly occurred. A gas circuit breaker, potential transformer, switch stands, and dead end pads were installed. A crew started building a new fence around the switchyard (see Figure 5).

## **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. All applicable Biological, Cultural, Paleontological, and Native American monitors have been present during ground disturbing activities at all substations.
- 2. BMP maintenance continued in several locations on the pad and along the Bell Bluff Truck Trail at Suncrest Substation. Damaged erosion controls were identified by the SWPPP monitor and were addressed by the contractor.
- 3. A Biological Monitor has been at San Luis Rey Substation for all work, including monitoring the big horned owl nest and the approved buffer reduction area.
- 4. Active nest monitoring occurred at the Encina Substation.

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:

- 1. Material staging and tower assembly continued at the Alpine Construction Yard..
- 2. No ground disturbing activities were conducted at the Alpine Regional Field Office (Alpine RFO).
- 3. Materials staging and tower assembly continued at Rough Acres Construction Yard.
- 4. No work occurred at Thomas Yard.
- 5. Material staging and tower structure assembly continued at the Jacumba Valley Ranch (JVR) Yard. JVR Yard was also utilized for helicopter operations.
- 6. Material staging and tower assembly took place at the Wilson Fly Yard.
- 7. Material staging and tower assembly occurred at the Helix Construction Yard.
- 8. No notable activity occurred at the SWAT Construction Yard.
- 9. Material staging and tower assembly occurred at the Hartung Construction Yard.
- 10. Material staging and tower assembly occurred at the Bartlett-Hauser Construction Yard. The access road & driveway was also improved.
- 11. Material staging and tower assembly occurred at the Kreutzkamp Construction Yard.

#### **BLM Lands:**

12. Fencing around the Plaster City Yard continued. Material staging and tower assembly also took place (see Figure 6).

## **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. Biological, Cultural, and Native American monitors have worked with crews at the construction yards to define approved work areas and sites to avoid.
- 2. Offsite dust continues to be noted along the JVR access road. Dust control is being conducted within the yard and along the access road.
- 3. BMP installation occurred at the Plaster City Yard.
- 4. BMP maintenance continued at the Bartlett-Hauser Construction Yard on Link 2.
- 5. Amphibian & reptile exclusionary fencing was installed along the access road to Kreutzkamp Construction Yard.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memorandums were issued during the subject period for Construction Yards and other workspace activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

## **Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC Ems):**

None.

#### **CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPs)**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed activity for the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project to date.

# TABLE 1 CPUC NTPs

(Updated 05/02/2011)

	Date	Date	Segment	
NTP#	Requested	Issued	#	Description
#1	01/04/10	04/28/10	25	San Luis Rey Substation Upgrades
#2	02/08/10	04/29/10	23	South Bay Substation Upgrades
#3	02/26/10	05/20/10	Yard	Alpine Yard 18
#4	01/26/10	05/28/10	Yard	Alpine Yard 18A
#5	02/05/10	09/28/10	Yard	Rough Acres Yard, Phase 1
#6	05/26/10	09/28/10	24	Encina Substation Upgrades
#7	05/28/10	09/28/10	Telecomm	White Star Communication Facility
#8	06/09/10	10/06/10	Substation	Pomerado Substation Upgrades
#9	06/09/10	10/06/10	Substation	Scripps Switchyard/Substation Upgrades
#10	10/13/10	11/23/10	15	Link 4, Alpine 230 kV Underground Construction
#11	10/19/10	12/15/10	13	Link 3, Suncrest Substation/Wilson Construction Yard
#12	11/30/10	12/23/10	Yard	Rough Acres Yard, Phase 2
#13	11/09/10	01/14/11	2-18,	Links 1, 2, and 5, overhead construction on non-
			20-22	federal lands
BLM #1	01/19/11	02/03/11	1	Imperial Valley Substation upgrades.
BLM #2	03/28/11	04/04/11	2-12,	Links 1, 2, and 5 overhead construction on BLM Lands.
			16-17	

# VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) requests submitted to date are presented in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

# TABLE 2 VARIANCE REQUESTS

(Updated 05/02/2011)

	(Opuated 05/02/2011)					
Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description		
#1	11/04/10	11/10/10	Yard	Thomas Yard (El Centro, CA)		
#2	12/22/10	03/18/11	Yard	Sycamore Estates Construction Yard. Response to inquiry received 02/23.		
#3	01/06/10	01/18/11	All	Modification to tree trimming requirements.		
#3 MOD	01/25/11	01/26/11	All	Modification to brush clearing requirements.		
#4	01/13/11	03/01/11	Yard	Helicopter Temporary Landing Pad area at the Alpine Regional Field Offices.		
#5	02/01/11	02/09/11	Yard	Site improvements at the Wilson Construction yard and along Bell Bluff Trail		
#6	02/01/11	03/01/11	Link 5	Variance from Mitigation Measure H-1a (CC) to allow work outside of the dry season.		
#7	02/11/11	02/17/11	Link 3	Additional work areas for construction trailers, parking, etc.		
#8	03/02/11	03/08/11	Link 2	Alternate access route to Structure EP 27.		
#9	03/29/11	04/06/11	All	Perform construction activities outside of hours allowed by local ordinances with local jurisdiction approval.		

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
#10	04/04/11 (revised)	04/14/11	Link 4	Additional construction work space at Viejas Creek Bridge.
#11	04/06/11	04/22/11	Link 1	Additional workspace east of EP215.
#12	04/15/11	04/25/11	Link 1	Additional turnaround along the access road to EP 220-1.
#13	04/13/11	Under Review	Links 1 & 2	Two fiber optic regeneration sites.
#14	04/28/11	Under Review	Yards	Change visual screening at Project construction yards from slats to fabric.

# TABLE 3 TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS

(Updated 05/02/2011)

TEWS	Date	Date		
Request	Requested	Approved	Segment #	Description
TEWS #1	11/01/10	11/01/10	White Star	Asphalt paved area for vehicle parking and staging
TEWS #2	03/17/11	03/18/11	Link 4	Parking on Puetz Valley and Alpine Blvd
TEWS #3	03/17/11	03/18/11	Link 4	Parking on Harbison Canyon and Alpine Blvd
TEWS #4	03/22/11	03/23/11	Link 5	Storage on One Father Junipero Sierra Trail
TEWS #5	03/24/11	03/24/11	Link 4	Parking at 3900 Willows Rd. West
TEWS #6	03/24/11	03/24/11	Link 4	Parking at 5840 Willows Rd. East
TEWS #7	04/14/11	04/14/11	Link 2	Northeast spur of access road to EP 84

# **NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

Project Memorandum, Non-Compliance Reports, and other incidents that have occurred to date are presented in Table 4.

TABLE 4
NON-COMPLIANCES (NC), PROJECT MEMORANDA (PM), AND OTHER INCIDENTS
(Updated 05/02/2011)

Туре	Date	Location	Description
PM #1	12/07/2010	Thomas	Failure to report unanticipated biological resources within
		Yard	48 hours.
PM #2	02/11/2011	EP 242,	Unauthorized ground disturbance at EP 242
		Link 1	
NC #1	03/08/2011	Suncrest	Army Corp of Engineers issued NC for not complying with
		Substation	Special Conditions 19, 21 and 23 of DA Permit SPL-2007-
			00704-SAS.
PM #3	03/15/2011	CP 67-3,	Staking crews operating and delivered by helicopters within
		Link 5	Golden Eagle Buffer area.

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Other compliance incidents identified by SDG&E monitoring staff and/or crews are presented in Table 5.

# TABLE 5 PROJECT INCIDENTS

(Updated 05/02/2011)

Туре	Date	Location	Description
Incident	11/1/2010	White Star	Delivery of a rebar cage outside of the approved
			disturbance area.
Incident	02/17/2011	EP 244,	Nest incorrectly marked at entrance to EP 244.
		Link 1	
Incident	02/18/2011	Alpine HQ	Emergency weather landing and storage of 3 helicopters
		•	at Alpine HQ.
Incident	03/12/2011	EP 252,	Bulldozer was delivered at site prior to CPUC clearance
		Link 1	being given.
Incident	03/15/2011	EP 214,	Dewatering approximately 1 gal of groundwater from an
		Link 1	excavation hole without having submitted a dewatering
			plan to the CPUC.
Incident	04/06/2011	JVR 12 kV,	Confusion on approved work areas due to varying maps
		Link 1	having been distributed to workers and monitors.
Incident	04/07/2011	JVR 12 kV,	A site was worked on prior to CPUC EM construction
		Link 1	release having been received for the area, no resources
			were damaged.

# PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Raking desert pavement at EP341, Link 1.



**Figure 2:** Straw wattle torn apart by vandals for a bonfire, Link 2.



**Figure 3:** Bonfire area on access road to EP 84, Link 2.



**Figure 4:** Installation of block retaining wall at Suncrest Substation, Link 3.



**Figure 5:** Fence being installed at the Encina Substation.



Figure 6: Continuing fence installation at Plaster City Yard, Link 1.