

	<p>California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></p>
	<p>East County (ECO) Substation Project</p> <p>Compliance Status Report: 024</p> <p>March 2, 2014</p>

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation Project. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/EIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC’s third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. This compliance status report covers construction activities from February 17 to March 2 2014.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations along the right-of-way associated with the 138 kV Underground Transmission Line, 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, East County Substation and Boulevard Substation Rebuild. Areas of active and inactive construction within the project limits were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project’s MMCRP. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

138 kV Underground Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of continued efforts with constructing the underground duct bank between the Boulevard Substation south to the overhead alignment and along Old Highway 80 between the East County Substation and the overhead alignment. Construction activities observed included repairing and placement of BMP’s along the right-of-way (ROW), excavation to create

the duct bank trench, placement of conduit within the duct bank, backfilling along duct bank alignment and completing jack-and-bore activities at the Carrizo Bridge along Old Highway 80.

CPUC approved environmental monitors conducted pre-construction wildlife sweeps prior to ground disturbing construction activities along the ROW in accordance with MM-BIO-1c. On February 18, five pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) were identified by the biological monitor roosting in the expansion joint of the Carrizo Creek Bridge where jack-and-bore drilling activities are occurring. A bat specialist monitored the bats during construction hours. Both the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) were notified of this discovery as the pallid bat is considered a Species of Special concern (CDFW) and a sensitive species (BLM).

Topsoil salvaged prior to construction activities is being stockpiled adjacent to the ROW in accordance with MM-BIO-1d, which requires topsoil to be conserved and stockpiled during the excavation process for use in the restoration. Signage has also been placed along the stockpiles of topsoil to remind construction crews that no disturbance of the topsoil piles is permitted during ongoing construction activities.

Intersections between underground activities and publicly accessed paved roads were equipped with rumble plates to minimize the potential for trac-out along paved surfaces in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and MM-BIO-4a (see Attachment A - Photo 1). Trac-out observed along paved surfaces was observed being cleaned on a regular basis in accordance with the Dust Control Plan and MM-BIO-4a.

In accordance with MM-BIO-1b, all construction personnel were observed to have hardhat stickers that indicate environmental awareness training has been completed. Sign-in sheets from the environmental awareness trainings are being provided to the CPUC on a weekly basis. In addition, all steep trenches and excavations associated with the duct bank construction were observed being covered at the end of the day and/or earthen ramps to allow for wildlife escape routes were put in place in accordance with MM-BIO-7a.

Spill kits were observed on site and securely attached to construction equipment to ensure materials are readily accessible for clean-up of small spills per MM-HAZ-1a. Crews were observed cleaning-up any minor spills that occurred during construction activities per the project requirements. Crews were also observed effectively managing construction debris by placing any trash within sealed designated trash bins. Equipment being staged along the ROW and portable restroom facilities associated with the jack-and-bore drilling site were observed to have containment bins in accordance with MM-HAZ-1c (see Attachment A - Photo 2).

138 kV Overhead Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period included rough grading activities associated with establishing access roads and pad sites for the overhead transmission line. In accordance with MM-BIO-1a, the work limits have been clearly defined prior to ground disturbing activities.

Pre-construction nesting bird surveys were conducted by a CPUC approved biologist in accordance with MM-BIO7-j. During this reporting period, two new nesting bird buffers were established: one bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) and one red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Nest buffers were established as required and the CPUC approved biologist monitored the nesting activity during the reporting period.

As required by MM-BIO-4a and MM-AQ-1, water trucks were observed suppressing fugitive dust emissions in areas of active construction and along unpaved access roads (see Attachment A - Photo 3). In areas of difficult access, water buffaloes or truck-based hoses were utilized for dust suppression.

Erosion control devices including silt fence were installed along the work limits to minimize the potential for discharges to occur beyond the project work limits in accordance with the SWPPP and MM-HYD-1 (see Attachment A - Photo 4).

Per the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan, SDG&E was observed inspecting equipment along the ROW to ensure all fire suppression equipment was present on the equipment. On February 19th, a fire was started at SP-54 as a result of construction activities and was immediately extinguished. The fire occurred when removing a boulder when a spark from the bucket scraped along the rock and ignited the vegetation. SDG&E reported that from ignition to extinguishment, the incident occurred in less than one minute. The burned area was held to approximately a one-foot by four-foot area at the base of the boulder.

East County Substation

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of spoil delivery at the 500-KV substation pad, culvert construction, concrete form building, substation and structure building, drilling pier foundations at the 500 kV substation pad, A-frame and H-braces construction, installation of drivable grass pavers and maintaining BMP's.

Construction activities were observed occurring within the approved work limits and were monitored on a periodic basis by a CPUC approved environmental monitor. All steep trenches and excavations associated with the duct bank construction were observed being covered at the end of the day and/or earthen ramps to allow for wildlife escape routes were put in place in accordance with MM-BIO-7a.

Construction equipment was observed to be equipped with required spill kits per MM-HAZ-1a and fire suppression equipment per MM-FF-1. All construction personnel observed onsite had hardhat stickers indicating they had completed the environmental awareness training per MM-BIO-1b.

Boulevard Substation

Construction activities at the Boulevard Substation included continued construction of foundation and concrete forms, and excavation completion of the 138 kV Underground Transmission Line termination foundations.

In accordance with MM TRA-1, traffic flaggers and posted signage were utilized along Old Highway 80 to ensure safe passage for motorists (see Attachment A - Photo 5).

As stipulated in the project's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan and MM-HAZ1-a, concrete wash out bins throughout the site were used to properly contain concrete waste (see Attachment A - Photo 6). Stockpiled soil within the substation was equipped with perimeter erosion control devices including straw wattles in order to minimize the potential for run-off (see Attachment A - Photo 7).

Water trucks were used to minimize fugitive dust emissions as required per MM-BIO4-a and MM-AQ-1, (see Attachment A - Photo 8).

Mitigation Measure Tracking

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FEIR/FEIS for the ECO Substation Project, as adopted by the CPUC on April 19, 2012 (Decision 12-04-022).

Compliance

A Level 1 Minor Deviation occurred on February 18 at SP-69 along the 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line. Construction crews were observed completing construction activities in advance of the site being cleared by a CPUC approved biologist indicating no active nests were located in proximity to the construction activities. SDG&E reported to the CPUC that the 10-day nesting bird survey conducted on February 9th and a three-day verification survey conducted on February 12th both confirmed that no active nests were present in the area. Working on-site more than three days after the verification survey has been completed is considered a Level 1 Minor Deviation from MM-BIO-7J.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site

Construction crews have completed demolishing existing structures and have completed the finish-grade of the substation pad. Construction of the concrete forms for the substation foundations and piers continues. Construction activities are approximately 28% complete.

ECO Substation Site Construction

Construction crews have completed hydro-seeding application and slope stabilization of the topsoil along the slopes of the 500 kV and 230/138 kV substation pads. Construction activities associated with the above-grade components continues. Construction activities are approximately 73% complete.

138 kV Underground Construction

SDG&E has completed the 138 kV Underground Transmission Line between the ECO substation and Old Highway 80. Construction crews have completed 17 vaults and 33% of trenches have been excavated and backfilled.

138 kV Overhead Construction

SDG&E continued to place ESA fencing along the right-of-way, remove vegetation, install erosion control devices, clearing and grading pad sites, and erecting steel poles. Thirty-two steel pole pads/spur roads have been completed, four pole foundations are complete, and one pole has been erected.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

ECO Substation 500 kV and 230/138 kV Yards – SDG&E began construction activities in March 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in September 2014. Construction activities are approximately 73% complete.

SWPL Loop-In – SDG&E has not initiated any construction activities at this time associated with the SWPL Loop-In. SDG&E is anticipated to complete construction in October 2014.

138 kV Underground Transmission Line – SDG&E began construction activities in October 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in October 2014.

138 kV Overhead Transmission Line – SDG&E began construction activities in November 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in October 2014.

Boulevard Substation Rebuild – SDG&E began construction in December 2012 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014. Construction activities are approximately 28% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: Intersections between unpaved access roads and publicly accessed paved roads were equipped with rumble plates to minimize trac-out.



Photo 2: Staged equipment and portable restroom facilities were observed to have containment bins in accordance with MM-HAZ-1c.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: As required by MM-BIO-4a and MM-AQ-1, water trucks were utilized to minimize fugitive dust emissions in areas of active construction.



Photo 4: Erosion control devices including silt fencing, gravel bags and straw wattles are being utilized along the right-of-way in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the SWPPP.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: In accordance with MM TRA-1, traffic flaggers and posted signage were utilized along Old Highway 80 to ensure safe passage for motorists.



Photo 6: As stipulated in the project's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan and MM-HAZ1-a, concrete wash out bins are utilized to contain concrete waste debris.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 7: Stockpiled soil was equipped with perimeter erosion control devices in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the SWPPP.



Photo 8: In an effort to minimize dust emissions, water trucks were utilized to apply water in areas of active construction at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild site.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
BLM-001	February 11, 2013	A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on lands administered by the BLM	Y
CPU -001	November 30, 2012	Abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site	Y
CPUC-002	February 1, 2013	Construction of a new substation (a 500 kV yard and a 230/138 kV yard)	Y
CPUC-003	February 1, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-004	March 4, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-005	May 21, 2013	Construction Yards	Y
CPUC-006	July 2, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line along Southern Access Road	Y
CPUC-007	July 30, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line within Old Highway 80 and Carrizo Gorge Road	Y
CPUC-008	August 2, 2013	Construction activities associated with the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Y
CPUC-009	September 25, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Boulevard Substation to 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-010	October 17, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Carrizo Gorge Road to Steel Pole 91	Y
CPUC-011	November 5, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-012	November 19, 2013	Fault Investigations at the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) Loop-In	Y
CPUC-013	December 4, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line Steel Pole- 105B and Steel Pole-108A	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Requests

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	January 25, 2013	Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	February 7, 2013
002	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Domingo Lake and Jewel Valley Construction Yards	Approved	May 20, 2013
003	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard	Approved	May 20, 2013
004	May 17, 2013	Adjustments to the Southern Access Road and 138 kV Overhead and Underground Transmission Line	Approved	June 26, 2013
005	June 27, 2013	Adjustments to the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Approved	July 26, 2013
006	July 30, 2013	Adjustments to the 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Approved	September 23, 2013
007	August 16, 2013	Relocation of Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	August 22, 2013
008	August 20, 2013	Construction Water Use	Approved	October 1, 2013
009	November 22, 2013	Additional Temporary Work Space for Fence Replacement	Approved	November 26, 2013
010	December 19, 2013	Access Road and Work Space Refinements at Steel Pole 63 & 64	Approved	January 14, 2014
011	January 16, 2014	Temporary Meeting Location for Material & Equipment	Approved	January 22, 2014