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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS, SEGMENTS 1 - 11**

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 27, 2010  
**Subject:** Weekly Reports 116-118 — April 4 to April 24, 2010

**INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the following SCE transmission projects:

- Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1;
- Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2, 3A and 3B, including the Windhub and Highwind Substations; and
- Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segments 4 through 11.

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 Work-space and non-compliance activity are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter

**SEGMENT 1: ANTELOPE-PARDEE**

**Summary of Activity:**

1. The relocation of the 66 kV transmission line surrounding the Antelope Substation expansion area continued. A temporary shoofly was constructed in order to maintain service to the line during construction. SCE crews continued with the underground portion of the relocated 66 kV line around the outside of the Antelope Substation expansion area.
2. Erosion problems have been identified at several locations in Segment 1 including Towers 9 and 99 (see Figure 1). SCE is working with the contractor's hydrologist to implement erosion repairs at these locations. Water bars and drivable dips were installed on the road to Tower 99. An engineering report was prepared by PAR's subcontractor to provide an assessment of the erosion at Tower 9 and to provide an engineering solution to repair the slopes. This plan is currently being reviewed by SCE. A site visit to this location took place on April 22 with CDFG to discuss construction within 300-feet of an active red-tailed hawk nest (located in Tower 9). SCE is currently evaluating the nest activity and will provide an update of the nest status to CDFG and the CPUC.
3. Habitat restoration continued in Segment 1. ECORP and Nature's Image are conducting restoration activities including herbicide application, hand pulling of weeds, hand-seeding, and hydroseeding in areas disturbed by construction. Areas still requiring treatment in Segment 1 include wire stringing site 3 and Tower 9. On the Angeles National Forest, maintenance consisting of weeding along SR33 and associated sites took place. A few instances of incorrectly weeding some native species was reported and the crews were reminded of which species to remove.



### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Bird nesting clearance surveys are being conducted in advance of construction or restoration activities as required by adopted mitigation measures. Five new nests were identified in Segment 1, two horned lark nests were found within 300-feet of the 66 kV underground work at the Antelope Substation expansion area, a northern mockingbird at the Avenue J yard, a house finch at the Avenue I yard, and a California quail nest found near the access road leading to the 66 kV construction site. SCE reported all nests to CDFG and requested buffer reductions in order to continue working in these areas provided that a biological monitor would be onsite.
2. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the adult horned lark flushed off a nest while construction was occurring nearby and did not return for over 1½ hours. Due to the prolonged absence of the adult bird and the descending temperature, SCE recovered the eggs and transported them to a rehabilitation facility for incubation. The status of these eggs will be submitted by SCE on a weekly basis.
3. Erosion repairs are taking place by both Ecorp/Nature's Image and PAR construction. Major repairs needed at Towers 9 and 99 are expected to take place in the next few weeks.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Segment 1 construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

### **Agency Representatives:**

None

### **SEGMENT 2: ANTELOPE-VINCENT**

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

The Notice to Proceed for Segment 2 construction (NTP #14) was issued by the CPUC on September 30, 2008. Segment 2 involves the construction of a new 21.0-mile single-circuit 500 kV transmission line initially to be energized at 220 kV and 0.6 miles of a new 220 kV transmission line connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the Vincent Substation in incorporated Los Angeles County. Segment 2 construction activities have been completed and the Segment 2 transmission line was energized on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

1. Recontouring and road capping work took place at Tower 34A on Segment 2. This work included the removal of a brush pile and other construction debris, recontouring slopes, and capping a sensitive archaeological resource in the area.
2. The post-construction tour identified several tower locations in which erosion problems are developing due to the recent rain events. Some of the problems observed are rilling, slumping, and incising of tower slopes and pads. Towers 17, 18, 19, 20-37, 39, 40-45, 48-49, 51-59, 60-68, 70-80, 83-85, 88-89, 91-92, and 94 have one or two of these erosion problems present. PAR crews conducted some repair work at Towers 33, 35, 36, 83, and 84 during the subject period.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE has indicated that the Avenue I yard is no longer used for Segments 1-3; however equipment delivered to Segment 2 for the recontouring work came from that location. SCE was reminded that bird nesting sweeps would be required in active project areas.
2. Hydroseeding for erosion control has been completed throughout Segment 2. Revegetation is planned for the fall of 2010.
3. Project biologists continued to conduct biological clearance sweeps in advance of anticipated work areas.

No Non-Compliance Reports were issued for Segment 2 construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

**SEGMENT 3A: ANTELOPE-WINDHUB**

The NTP for Segment 3A (NTP #17) was issued by the CPUC on October 22, 2008. Segment 3A involves the construction of a new 25.6-mile 500 kV transmission line initially energized at 220 kV connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the new Windhub Substation on Oak Creek Road in the Tehachapi area of Kern County. The NTP for the new Windhub Substation (NTP #19) was issued by the CPUC on December 1, 2008. Construction of the Segment 3A transmission line has been completed and energization has not been scheduled.

**Summary of Activity**

1. Construction continued at the Windhub Substation.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE is working to develop a solution for the channel incision that occurred immediately downstream of the rip-rapped stream channel at the Windhub Substation site. Once a plan is developed, it will be submitted to the CPUC.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for Segment 3A/Windhub construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

**SEGMENT 3B: WINDHUB TO HIGHWIND SUBSTATION**

The NTP for Segment 3B has not been requested to date. Two related activities were permitted separately by the CPUC. NTP #27 was approved on January 5<sup>th</sup> for the installation of the Oak Peak Communications Tower and NTP # 28 was approved on February 18<sup>th</sup> for the Highwind Marshalling Yard.

**Summary of Activity**

Construction of the Oak Peak Communications Tower continued during the subject period.

**Environmental Compliance:**

Protocol level surveys for special status species, including desert tortoise, are planned for the spring of 2010.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for Segment 3B construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

## **TRTP SEGMENTS 4-11**

The SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by the CPUC on December 17, 2009. Construction activities include the establishment of yards and vegetation removal for the Vincent Substation expansion.

### **Summary of Activity**

1. Construction crews completed the construction of Yard 28, located on Avenue I in Lancaster. SCE is expecting the delivery of materials in the next few weeks.
2. Vegetation removal with hand tools was completed within the Vincent Substation expansion area. Four additional short joint beavertail cacti were found and transplanted to the relocation site nearby (see Figure 2). A portion of the expansion area was on hold due to an active nest, but was completed after the birds successfully fledged the nest.
3. Equipment and materials were delivered to the Rancho Vista Yard in Rancho Cucamonga.
4. Two equipment yards are currently in use supporting the geotechnical investigations on the Angeles National Forest (Segments 6 and 11). These are the Rodeo Yard (previously permitted under Segment 2) and the Huntington Drive Yard on SCE right-of-way in Duarte.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. During a site visit to the Rancho Vista Yard, the CPUC EM noted that the exclusion fencing to protect the Delhi sands flower-loving fly was not in place, and there was some confusion on SCE's part as to where it was to be placed. SCE agreed to provide photos to document the fence installation for the CPUC approval prior to occupation of the yard. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC EM conducted another site visit and found materials and equipment had been delivered to this yard without the documentation of the fencing being provided (see Figure 3). SCE was reminded that validation of resource protection is required prior to site occupation for yards and construction sites.
2. During a site visit to the Vincent Expansion area on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the CPUC EM noted that installation of fiber rolls was occurring around the perimeter of the construction area. An access road was graded around almost half of the perimeter for the fiber roll installation equipment (see Figure 4). In addition, the crews and monitors onsite were unaware of the topsoil salvage requirements for the temporary disturbance areas (which is also the location of the grading noted above). SCE was reminded that biology clearance sweeps were required in this location since no work had occurred in over two weeks and that other plans and permits were to be submitted prior to work. SCE has since submitted an updated biological sweep survey and the grading permit for the Vincent Expansion site.
3. During a site visit to the proposed Mesa Yard in Monterey Park, the CPUC EM observed an SCE crew conducting vegetation removal in the area. A memorandum was submitted to SCE seeking an explanation of the observed activities. It was reported by SCE that the vegetation removal activities were related to Operation & Maintenance clearing of the existing transmission line right-of-way; however, no written response has been provided to date.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for TRTP construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

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

None

**CONTRACTOR YARDS: ALL SEGMENTS**

Contractor Yards are listed below along with a summary of current status.

- Racetrack Yard - Final clean up completed
- Pumpkin Yard - Final clean up completed
- Pottery Yard - Final clean up completed
- Hydrant Yard - Final clean up completed
- 10 Acre Yard - Final clean up and decompaction completed, has not been reseeded.
- Avenue J Yard - In use, Segments 4-11
- Avenue I Yard - Still in use, Segments 2 -3
- Rodeo Yard - In use for Segments 6 & 11 geotechnical equipment
- Mojave Yard - Still in use, Segments 2 -3
- Highwind Yard - Has not been constructed, Segment 3B
- Yard 28 - In use, Segments 4-11
- Huntington Drive Yard - In use for Segments 6 & 11 geotechnical equipment
- Rancho Vista Yard - In use, Segments 4-11

**CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS) & ANF PERMITTING**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed and ANF permitting activity for the Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project, Segments 1, 2, and 3, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING**  
 (Updated 04/27/2010)

| NTP #/<br>Permit   | Date<br>Requested | Date<br>Issued  | Segment<br># | Description  |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| CPUC NTPs, Segments 1-3  |                   |                 |              |  |
| <i>For CPUC NTP and Addendum activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 1 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i> |                   |                 |              |  |
| #26  | 12/18/09          | 01/05/10        | 1            | Expansion of Antelope Substation.  |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 12/21/09          | 01/19/10        | 1            | Permanent AR 19 and access road to Const 34A.  |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 12/21/09          | 01/19/10        | 1            | Permanent refueling basin at Hydrant Yard.   |
| #27  | 12/23/09          | 01/05/10        | 3B           | Oak Peak Communication Site  |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 01/25/10          | 02/01/10        | 2            | Reclassification of two temporary roads to permanent and relocation of transposition poles.  |
| Revised<br>CPUC<br>Addendum  | 02/10/10          | 02/19/10        | 2            | Relocate two previously approved transposition towers from Const 110 to Const 105.   |
| #28  | 02/10/10          | 02/18/10        | 3B           | Highwind Marshalling Yard  |
| #29  | 02/10/10          | 03/02/10        | 1            | Relocation of the Sagebrush Transmission Line at the Antelope Substation expansion area.   |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 03/17/10          | 03/26/10        | 3A           | Vertical mulching, capping of a portion of the existing roadway, and making this overland route a permanent access for SCE operations and maintenance to Const 43. |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 04/06/10          | Under<br>review | 3B           | Elimination of transposition towers in Segment 3B.   |
| CPUC<br>Addendum   | 04/16/10          | 04/22/10        | 1            | Installation of fiber optics surrounding the Antelope Expansion.   |
| CPUC NTPs Segments 4-11  |                   |                 |              |  |
| #1   | 01/13/10          | 02/11/10        | 4, 5, 10     | Yard 28  |

| NTP #/<br>Permit                  | Date<br>Requested | Date<br>Issued | Segment<br># | Description   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| #2                                | 01/28/10          | 03/10/10       | 9            | Vincent Substation Expansion  |
| #3                                | 03/09/10          | 04/01/10       | 7,8          | Rancho Vista Yard   |
| #4                                | 01/27/10          | 04/26/10       | 7, 8         | Segment 7 and 8 Cell Sites  |
|                                   | 01/27/10          |                | 7            | Segment 7 Telecom   |
|                                   | 03/29/10          |                | 7,8          | Mesa Materials Storage Yard   |
| CPUC<br>Addendum                  | 04/09/10          | 04/19/10       | 9            | Changes to Substation components.   |
|                                   | 04/08/10          |                | 7, 8         | 66 kV re-route and relocation   |
| ANF PERMTTING – Segment 1, 6 & 11 |                   |                |              |   |
|                                   | 11/29/07          | 12/14/07       | 1            | Radio Repeater – installation of a temporary radio repeater site on Sierra Pelona Ridge to provide communication during construction activities tied to the project. Improvement installation began Jan. 11   |
|                                   | 09/27/07          | 12/14/07       | 1            | Geotechnical testing – 23 geotechnical borings are authorized on National Forest lands to provide additional information that will be used in the design of the transmission towers. Notice to proceed was signed Jan 31 to begin work the week of Feb. 3 |
|                                   |                   | 07/14/08       | 1            | Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir) Phase I.   |
|                                   |                   | 09/23/08       | 1            | Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, Phase II   |
|                                   |                   | 10/23/08       | 1            | Construction of the 500 kV transmission line and wreck-out of the 66 kV towers in the ANF, Section 2.   |

## VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

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

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/27/2010)

| Variance<br>Request   | Date<br>Requested | Date<br>Issued | Segment<br># | Description   |
|---|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Variance Requests, Segments 1-3   |                   |                |              |   |
| <i>For Variance Request activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 2 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i> |                   |                |              |   |
| VR #66  | 01/11/10          | 01/19/10       | 1            | Modify the requirements of Mitigation Measure B-1a (Provide Restoration/Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation Communities) to fulfill a request from the property owner.                |
| VR #67  | 01/15/10          | 01/19/10       | 3A           | Modify requirements of Mitigation Measure B-27b and APMs BIO-2 and BIO-7 to preserve cut Joshua trees onsite instead of off-site disposal to the extent possible for habitat creation purposes. |
| VR #68  | 04/09/10          | 04/12/10       | 1            | Release restoration requirements on road to wreck-out tower 20-4 in Section 3.  |
| Variance Requests, Segments 4-11  |                   |                |              |   |
| VR #1   | 03/25/10          | 03/26/10       | 9-Vincent    | Expand grading area of Vincent substation by 15-feet for temporary turn around areas for equipment.   |

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 04/27/2010)

| TEWS Request  | Date Requested | Date Approved | Segment # | Description |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| TEWS, Segments 1-3  |                |               |           |             |
| <i>For TEWS activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 3 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i> |                |               |           |             |
| TEWS, Segments 4-11   |                |               |           |             |
| None to date  |                |               |           |             |

**NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

A summary of Project Memorandum, Non-Compliance Reports, and other incidents to date is provided in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**  
**NON-COMPLIANCES, PROJECT MEMORANDA, AND OTHER INCIDENTS**  
 (Updated 04/27/2010)

| Type  | Date | Location | Description |
|---|------|----------|-------------|
| Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda & Other Incidents, Segments 1-3  |      |          |             |
| <i>For Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda &amp; Other Incidents activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 4 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i> |      |          |             |
| Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda, & Other Incidents, Segments 4-11  |      |          |             |
| None to date  |      |          |             |

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Erosion at Tower 9 in the City of Santa Clarita, Segment 1. A plan for repairs at this location is currently under review by SCE.



**Figure 2:** Transplanted short joint beavertail cactus near the Vincent Substation.



**Figure 3:** Equipment and Materials at the Rancho Vista Yard.



**Figure 4:** Grading of an access road for BMP installation at the Vincent Substation Expansion area.