



30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-4316  
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, [www.aspeneg.com](http://www.aspeneg.com)

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

**ANTELOPE PARDEE PROJECT, SEGMENT 1**

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC  
Marian Kadota, Project Manager, ANF  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** July 11, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Reports #24, June 22-28, and #25, June 29-July 5, 2008

The Antelope-Pardee Project, Segment 1, is comprised of three sections:

- Section 1: Pardee Substation to the ANF boundary.
- Section 2: ANF
- Section 3: ANF Boundary to the Antelope Substation

During the subject period, construction activity continued under Notice to Proceed (NTP) #7 for construction of Section 1 and NTP #2 for construction of the Antelope Substation in Section 3. No work was conducted in Section 2, on the Angeles National Forest, pending the issuance of construction permits. Equipment, materials, and office trailers are being staged in approved construction yards; Pumpkin, Pottery, Blue Cloud, Avenue I, Mechanics, and Antelope.

**SECTION 1**

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Jenny Slaughter was onsite June 30 and July 2. Arturo Ruelas was onsite June 23-24 and June 30-July 3.

**Summary of Activity:**

The Shoofly (temporary bypass line) of the Antelope Pardee Transmission Line Project authorized under NTP #5 was energized on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The lattice tower structures originally supporting the line will later be replaced to accommodate construction of the new Antelope Pardee 500 kV structures within the Shoofly corridor.

The NTP (#7) for Section 1 of Segment 1 was issued by the CPUC on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Construction activities approved under NTP #7 in Section 1 include the removal of the Del Sur-Saugus 66 kV line and towers, the construction of the new 500 kV lattice towers, and the removal of the existing 220 kV Santa Clara Vincent line and towers. Construction activities under NTP #7 consisted of the following activities.

1. Road building and crane pad construction for access to new tower locations to support the Antelope Pardee 500 kV transmission continued. Roads were cut and/or improved to new tower construction site (NC) 27 during the subject weeks. PAR crews conduct road construction from west to the east along the project alignment, followed by foundation drilling, concrete pouring, and tower assembly.
2. Tower foundation drilling took place at NC 1a and 1b (within the Pardee Substation), NC 24, and NC 27 (see Figure 1). The construction of several new 500 kV tower foundations are on hold due to difficulties with the removal of the existing 220 kV towers and conductors. 220 kV conductor on wreck-out towers between San Francisquito Road and Haskell Canyon Road have been removed and the existing 220 kV towers are in various stages of being dismantled. Between Haskell Canyon Road and NC 25 (on the east end of the Shoofly), the conductor is still in place until a plan is developed to safely remove the conductor over the LADWP transmission line corridor located in Haskell Canyon. Although the conductor has not yet been removed completely, the wires have been lowered to the ground and anchored in some cases to allow crews to dismantle the 220 kV wreck-out towers.



3. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, during conductor removal operations across Seco Canyon Road, the conductor section unexpectedly lost tension and fell onto guard structures protecting the road. The guard structures (made of telephone poles) snapped under the weight as the conductor fell on top of them. The conductor ultimately was held up by another guard structure and did not fall onto the road.
4. Concrete pouring took place at NC 24 and 27 once the re-bar cages were placed into the foundation holes. Steel corners were anchored into the concrete in order to support the tower construction.
5. New 500 kV tower construction is occurring at NC 2 -13 (between the Pardee Substation and the west end of the Shoofly); these towers are in various stages of assembly.
6. Along the Del Sur–Saugus 66 kV line, all but two towers have been dismantled in Section 1; these are on hold until the 66 kV conductor is removed in the ANF. SCE prepared a tower footing removal demonstration for the Angeles National Forest staff on June 16th. The ANF will determine if SCE will be required to completely remove all 66 kV tower footing on the ANF or if the foundations could be cut off at two feet below grade and backfilled. This decision by the ANF is still pending.
7. Biological monitoring and associated biological clearance surveys of Section 1 construction areas was conducted by Burns and McDonnell and BRC biologists during the subject weeks. Paleontological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing construction activities.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Updated biological resource maps were provided on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>, which accurately showed biological resource locations. An updated bird nesting tracking table was also provided to field monitors. Project components including tower numbers and locations of wreck-out towers were added to the maps.
2. Because nesting bird surveys within a 500-foot buffer of project areas were not included in the original pre-construction biological survey report dated March 7, project biologists are conducting pre-construction biological sweep surveys (including a breeding bird survey within 500 feet) in advance of construction activity in order to comply with Mitigation Measure B-6. SCE's Biological Monitors are relying on construction personnel to give them advance notice when moving into a new area that has not been recently surveyed. Results of the construction sweeps are to be submitted to the CPUC on a weekly basis, per the NTP. Any new bird nest or other biological resources identified in Section 1 are to be added to resource maps and distributed on a weekly basis to the monitoring team, CPUC, and CDFG as requested by Dan Blankenship (CDFG).
3. The active house finch nests relocated the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> onto platforms have been predated or abandoned. CDFG biologist Dan Blankenship has recommended that the platforms be redesigned to decrease the chances of predation by larger birds. To date, no changes have been made to the existing platforms.
4. SCE Biological Monitors reported a second house finch nest in wreck-out tower 24-2 (adjacent to NC 25). One nest was observed to still contain chicks, and the second contains eggs. PAR crews have indicated that they would wait to dismantle the tower completely until the birds fledge. The CPUC EM has recommended frequent checks of this tower to remove new nesting material before nests become active.
5. Before constructing new access roads to NC 13, project biological monitors identified several more woodrat middens in the construction disturbance areas. Ones that could be avoided were flagged, but others were raked to allow the woodrats to leave the area, although none were observed. To date, approximately eight woodrat middens have been removed by biologists (at locations NC 6, 9, and 13). CDFG representative Dan Blankenship was notified. CDFG is considering trapping the woodrats as a way to determine the species of woodrats in the area.

6. Other nests previously identified in the Shoofly construction corridor are being monitored by Burns and McDonnell or biological subcontractors. During discussions with CDFG and Burns and McDonnell management on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC EM suggested that once nests in the project area are confirmed to be active, the monitors should avoid checking them on a daily basis to avoid disruption of the breeding birds. CDFG biologist agreed and that one a week nest checks would be adequate.
7. One Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) request was reviewed by the CPUC EM during the subject week. TEWS Requests are summarized in Table 3.
8. The CPUC EMs toured several active construction yard sites during the subject period, including Upper and Lower Pumpkin yards, Pottery, Blue Cloud, and Antelope.

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week.

**Agency Representatives:**

None.

**SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS**

**ANF Representatives:** Marian Kadota

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter and Art Ruelas.

**Summary of Activity:**

Construction in Section 2 is pending the issuance of construction permits including the Special Use Permit (SUP) and Construction Plan from the Forest Service and the CPUC NTP.

During the week of June 5 the CPUC EMs were notified that several spans of the 66 kV line within the ANF had been cut down and removed by trespassers. SCE directed PAR construction to go to the locations on the ANF and remove conductor that had been cut down by the vandals, since it could present a fire risk. Burns and McDonnell Environmental staff accompanied the crews to monitor the conductor removal. An SCE representative provided security in the area overnight to prevent trespassers from stealing any conductor on the ground.

A field meeting took place on Thursday, June 5 between ANF Representatives Marian Kadota and George Geer, SCE, PAR construction personnel, Burns and McDonnell Environmental staff, and the CPUC EMs. The meeting took place to discuss the possibility of removing the conductor in the 66 kV towers on the ANF, before the Special Use Permit is issued for main construction in order to protect SCE property and safely remove the conductor. ANF will review a plan provided by PAR describing the staging areas, access roads, and resources identified in the areas in order to process an SUP for this work. Several Mariposa lilies were observed within the 66kV right-of-way, and may be impacted during the conductor removal.

On June 19, a PAR Environmental Coordinator conducted a field survey in the Spunky Canyon area where more of the copper conductor wire had been cut, and noticed a suspicious vehicle in the area. The license plate was reported to the Sheriff's Department. Upon further investigations, the driver of the suspicious vehicle was arrested.

**Environmental Compliance:**

No Non-Compliance Reports were issued by the ANF during the subject week.

No CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) or Project Memoranda (PM) were issued during the subject week.

### **SECTION 3, ANTELOPE SUBSTATION, & ADJACENT YARDS**

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter and Arturo Ruelas.

The CPUC EMs toured Section 3 on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Section 3 includes the construction of the 500 kV towers, the dismantling of the Del Sur–Saugus 66 kV transmission line, the construction of the 12 kV distribution line, and the Antelope Substation expansion for the Antelope Pardee Project.

NTPs #10 (for the 12 kV component of Section 3 of Segment 1) and #11 (for the 500 kV tower construction and dismantling of the 66 kV transmission line) were issued by the CPUC on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Construction activities approved under NTP #2 continued for the Antelope Substation expansion work.

Construction activities under NTPs #2, #10, and #11 consisted of the following activities.

1. Grading, grounding and fencing of the Antelope Substation expansion area has been completed. An earthen berm was constructed surrounding the expansion area to assist in drainage.
2. In Section 3, crews have been mobilizing equipment to the nearby 10-acre yard in preparation for construction activities. PAR construction will be the contractor for the 66 kV transmission line removal and the construction of the 500 kV transmission line. For the 12 kV component, a subcontractor to PAR will conduct the installation.
3. Because the original biological pre-construction surveys were incomplete, SCE is required to conduct further pre-construction clearance surveys to identify resources in Section 3. These survey results are to be submitted to the CPUC prior to construction for review and approval.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CPUC EM was notified that PAR crews would be mobilizing equipment into yards adjacent to Section 3. Another notification phone call was made to the CPUC EM that PAR intended to begin road constructing near Elizabeth Lake Road later that morning. The CPUC EM notified the Burns and McDonnell Environmental Inspector that if PAR was allowed to proceed with construction, a Non-Compliance Report could be issued because no biological clearance survey results had been submitted to the CPUC. The CPUC EM received another notification that the biological clearance survey reports had been emailed, and that construction would proceed. The CPUC EM contacted the Burns and McDonnell Lead Environmental Inspector and explained that the survey results needed to be *reviewed and approved* before construction could proceed, per the conditions of the NTP. In addition, the majority of biological resources present in Section 3 had not been mapped or flagged for avoidance. The grading of existing roads between Elizabeth Lake Road and NC 95 had occurred before Burns and McDonnell shut down construction (see Figure 2).
2. On Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CPUC EMs toured the Section 3 right-of-way with road construction crews to discuss several areas where the proposed overland travel would not be possible. In one case, a temporary road will need to be built in order for large equipment to access a tower site. In another location, the sides of a drainage will need to be bladed to allow construction equipment to drive across. Finally, a second drainage crossing an existing road will be filled with rock for access. The CPUC EM informed the crew that a variance will be required to capture these areas, since more disturbance is required than originally proposed (see Figure 3). A memorandum describing these changes was distributed to CDFG for comment. CDFG has requested that a geo-fabric be used to contain the rock placed in the drainage and removed after work is completed.

3. Several active bird nests, including ravens and house finches were identified within the substation boundaries. A raven nest is located within 300 feet of the construction activities and does not appear to be disturbed by construction activity. CDFG provided approval to allow construction activities to occur within the 300 feet of the nest. One empty house finch nest was reported and removed by project biologists. A second house finch nest (partial nest including one egg) was observed on a shelf in an equipment locker. According to project biologists, no adult birds were visiting the nest. Project Biologists continued to monitor the partial house finch nest and determined that it had failed; the nest and egg was removed.
4. The CPUC EM toured the proposed 12 kV line relocation within Section 3 on June 16<sup>th</sup> with a Burns and McDonnell biologist and PAR environmental staff once project disturbance maps were distributed. Many of the adjacent 66 kV towers were observed to contain large stick nests. If work needs to be conducted within 300 feet of active nests, consultation with CDFG will be required.
5. Along Section 3, archaeological testing was completed for the 12 kV pole locations within a recorded pre-historic archaeological site. A report of the testing results is pending.

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

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

**TABLE 1**  
**CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING**  
(Updated 07-11-08)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
CPUC NTPs			
#1	Oct 10, 2007	Oct 16, 2007	Mojave Marshalling Yard. Per the request, the yard will primarily be used to store construction equipment and materials for the project.
#2	Nov 16, 2007	Dec 10, 2007	Antelope Substation construction and expansion, as well as the use of two adjacent contractor laydown yards.
#2 Mod	Dec 21, 2007	Jan 2, 2008	Allow grading activity at the Antelope site/yards and replacement of an existing 80 foot microwave tower with a new 120 foot tower immediately outside of the communications room within the fenced area of the Antelope Substation.
#3	Jan 10, 2008	Jan 16, 2008	Use of five contractor laydown yards as named Pumpkin Yard, Pottery Yard, Pardee Substation Yard, Mechanics Yard and Avenue I Yard.
#4	Jan 29, 2008	Feb 4, 2008	Use of the Racetrack Marshalling Yard.
#5	Feb 19, 2008	Feb 28, 2008	Shoofly Construction, Section 1.
#5 Mod #1	March 11, 2008	March 19, 2008	Use of a new soil disposal site for the Shoofly construction, Section 1.
#5 Mod #2	March 24, 2008	March 26, 2008	Removal of the 66 kV conductor on the Del Sur-Saugus line during the outage scheduled for March 27, 2008.
#6	March 19, 2008	March 29, 2008	Use of three additional construction yards, Rodeo, Blue Cloud, and Pumpkin expansion. Rodeo yard approved under NTP #9.
#7	April 3, 2008	May 8, 2008	Section 1 Construction.
#8	May 1, 2008	May 9, 2008	10 acre marshalling yard near Antelope Substation.
#9	March 18, 2008	June 18, 2008	Rodeo Yard
#10	June 2, 2008	June 25, 2008	12 kV line (Hughes Lake Distribution Line).
#11	June 3, 2008	June 25, 2008	Section 3 construction.
#12	June 27, 2008	July 8, 2008	Hydrant Yard
ANF PERMITTING			
	Nov. 29, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	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
	Sept. 27, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	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

**VARIANCE REQUESTS**

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

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
 (Updated 07-11-08)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
VR #1	April 1, 2008	April 3, 2008	Change in construction of a overland travel road to Shoofly pole 18, to a temporary road construction method.
VR #2	April 18, 2008	April 19, 2008	Several expanded stringing sites, new staging areas, and guard pole installation sites for the removal of the 220 kV line.
VR #3	April 24, 2008	April 25, 2008	Weekend work along the Shoofly portion of Section 1, within the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County, and at the Antelope Substation, Avenue J, in the City of Lancaster.
VR #4	May 8, 2008	May 9, 2008	Weekend work along the 66 kV line in Section 1

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
 (Updated 07-11-08)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Description
TEWS 1	May 15, 2008	May 16, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement outside of disturbance limits adjacent to New Construct tower (NC 3) in Section 1.
TEWS 2	May 19, 2008	May 21, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement adjacent outside of disturbance limits to New Construct tower (NC 12) in Section 1.
TEWS 3	May 20, 2008	May 20, 2008	Extra Workspace for equipment parking outside of disturbance limits along shoulder of private road adjacent to New Construct tower (NC 2) in Section 1.
TEWS 4	May 27, 2008	May 27, 2008	Access for crew trucks to 66 kV wreck-out tower 6-1.
TEWS 5	7/3/08 – Site review; paperwork pending		Extra Workspace for steel placement and tower assembly near NC 12.
TEWS 6	7/3/08 – Site review; paperwork pending	Variance required if vegetated area is proposed.	Extra Workspace for steel placement and tower assembly near NC 13.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS - SECTION 1



**Figure 1:** Foundations at NC 15, tower assembly crews will begin constructing the tower in the upcoming weeks.



**Figure 2:** Crews began road building in Section 3 near Elizabeth Lake Road. Once it was determined that not all permit requirements were met, the crews were stopped.



**Figure 3:** PAR crews would like to improve a drainage crossing an existing road in Section 3. With CDFG concurrence, geo-fabric will be used to line the feature and rock will be used to fill in the drainage. The rock and fabric will need to be removed once the project is completed.