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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

**ANTELOPE PARDEE PROJECT, SEGMENT 1**

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC  
Justin Seastrand, Project Manager, ANF  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 4, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Reports #30, #31 and #32, August 3–23 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 NTPs #2, #10, and #11 for construction of Section 3, including the Antelope Substation. With the exception of 66 kV conductor removal, 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.

**SECTION 1**

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

**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 are being replaced to accommodate construction of the new Antelope Pardee 500 kV structures within the Shoofly corridor.

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 during the subject week 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 at Towers (NC) 26a, 26b, and 26c. Road crews have been conducting road construction from west to the east along the project alignment, followed by foundation drilling, concrete pouring, and tower assembly.
2. Tower foundation drilling was completed at NC 26a, 26b, and 26c and NC 27 during the subject period. The construction of several new 500 kV tower foundations is on hold due to difficulties with the removal of the existing 220 kV towers and conductors. 220 kV conductors 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. SCE has installed chain link fencing around these areas to protect the public from entering these areas.

3. New 500 kV towers are nearly completed between the Pardee Substation and Mountain View Park (NC 2-18). Once insulators and travelers have been installed, PAR will proceed with wire stringing in this area. Guard pole installation took place in anticipation of the stringing activities (see Figures 1 and 2).
4. One new 500 kV tower location has been inaccessible due to property condemnation proceedings (NC 28). SCE is continuing negotiations with the property owner to proceed with construction on this property.
5. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Burns and McDonnell field staff and the CPUC EM looked at one remaining tower footing near Kathleen Avenue (see Figure 3). Tower 24/2 was dismantled and three footings were removed to below 2-feet and buried, however the fourth footing was on a steep slope and the contractor raised concerns about slope collapse during the footing removal. The CPUC EM told PAR and Burns and McDonnell staff that a Variance Request would be required to leave the footing in place since SCE had proposed removing all wreck out tower footings.
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.
7. Mowing of the Hydrant Yard has been completed and is being actively used for steel assembly. A helicopter fueling area has been constructed to contain any potential spills.
8. Biological monitoring and associated biological clearance surveys of Section 1 construction areas was conducted by Burns and McDonnell and BRC biologists during the subject week. Paleontological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing construction activities.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. 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).
2. No new bird nests were reported in Section 1 during the subject period.
3. Erosion controls are being installed once construction crews have completed ground disturbing activities, such as new road construction.

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

**Agency Representatives:**

None.

**SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS**

**ANF Representatives:** Justin Seastrand, George Geer, and Janet Nickerman.

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

**Summary of Activity:**

On July 14, 2008, the Forest Service issued a fully executed copy of the Special Use Permit that authorizes SCE to remove the 66-kV conductor, know as the Del Sur-Saugus, from National Forest System lands. The Forest Service also provided written notice that SCE can proceed with the implementation of Phase 1 of the 66-kV conductor removal, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).

The NTP from the CPUC for the Phase 1 activity was issued on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Conductor removal activities are taking place on the ANF (Section 2) when the Project Activity Level (PAL) allows. PAR construction is responsible for obtaining the PAL level relating to fire risk for the following day.

1. Removal of the 66 kV conductor began on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Construction crews started removing the conductor wire in the ANF between towers 16/1 and 15/4, at the north end of Phase I. A 2,500-foot section was taken down and removed during the subject period.
2. A helicopter landing zone (LZ) was cleared of brush along Del Sur Ridge Road using hand held weed eaters. Fire safety equipment and biological monitors were onsite during the vegetation clearing (see Figure 4).

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. Crews utilized the existing disturbed areas of Del Sur Ridge Road for staging of personnel and equipment (see Figure 5). Equipment left on the ANF overnight is staged on plastic sheeting to prevent fuel or other liquids from impacting the roads.
2. All construction related equipment and personnel vehicles are being sprayed with water at the Pumpkin Yard to prevent the spread of weeds to areas of the ANF. A copy of the vehicle wash log is kept at the yard.
3. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, a small oil spill occurred at the pulling site 13. The spill was immediately contained and the contaminated material was removed from the site.
4. Two water trucks were staged at opposite ends of the work area, to maintain fire protection during construction activities.

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

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

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

#### **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 during the subject week consisted of the following activities. United Construction is the subcontractor to PAR responsible for the installation of the 12 kV distribution line construction. United crews are working six days a week.

1. Construction activities for the 500 kV installation in Section 3 began on August 20<sup>th</sup>. A foundation crew started near the Antelope Substation and will work south towards Elizabeth Lake Road. A road crew began constructing crane pads on the opposite end preparing areas north of Elizabeth Lake Road (see Figures 6 and 7).
2. Construction activities covered under NTP #10 for the Hughes Lake 12 kV distribution line began on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Construction crews are working from the Antelope Substation west toward Elizabeth Lake Road. Holes were drilled in advance of pole setting crews. All 12 kV poles have been set, with the exception of one which was not the correct size. A larger pole will be installed once the contractor receives it.
3. In Section 3, three abandoned raven nests were removed from 66 kV towers during late July. These nests were removed to prepare for the eventual removal of the 66 kV transmission towers. One existing road was improved in Section 3 in order for the 12 kV crews to access the pole sites. No other construction activities have taken place under the Section 3 NTP (NTP #11).
4. 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. Crews are currently constructing the new substation components within the expansion area.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC EM was notified that a 12 kV crew truck tried to access a wood pole by driving across a wetland exclusion area. Burns and McDonnell Inspectors quickly stopped the crew members and reminded them to use approved access roads only. The driver was stopped before any resource damage could occur (see Figure 8).
2. During construction of the 12 kV Lake Hughes relocation, fugitive dust was observed crossing Elizabeth Lake Road. Many construction vehicles were accessing the adjacent property and did not have a water truck present. It was also noted by the CPUC EM that several of the vehicles were traveling faster than the project required speed limit of 15 mph. The CPUC EM brought this situation to the attention of the contractor.
3. Paleontological Monitors were present during construction of the 12 kV distribution line.

4. 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 were submitted to the CPUC on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The CPUC EMs conducted a field tour of Section 3 to verify that biological resources discovered during the clearance surveys were marked for avoidance and mapped on project resource maps. The CPUC EM completed the biological survey review and approval was given to SCE on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
5. The Biological Monitors noticed that several rodents were trapped in the excavated holes once the plywood covers were opened. The biologists used a net on a pole to remove more than 50 individuals (Kangaroo Rats and Deer Mice) from the holes and released them off site. The CPUC EM recommended that the plywood covers be buried to avoid any gaps where small mammals could enter. Once this was done, the number of animals found in the holes has been reduced.

#### **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, through September 4.

**TABLE 1**  
**CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING**  
(Updated 09-04-08)

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
#13	July 17, 2008	July 18, 2008	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF Phase I, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).
#14	August 14, 2008	CPUC comments submitted	Use of Roger's Ranch Marshalling Yard for Segment 2 construction.
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
		July 14, 2008	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir).

**VARIANCE REQUESTS**

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted through September 4 are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
(Updated 09-04-08)

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
VR #5	July 15, 2008	VR will be submitted as separate requests	Expansion of guard pole structure areas in Haskell Canyon, New wire stringing site between NC 11 and 12, and crane pad near NC 20.
VR #6	July 30, 2008	July 30, 2008	Modification to the notice and review requirements under Mitigation Measures L-5 and L-6.
VR #7	August 12, 2008	August 16, 2008	Wire Stringing site in Section 1 between NC 11 and 12.
VR #8	August 20, 2008	August 27, 2008	Guard poles at Haskell Canyon outside of approved disturbance areas.
VR #9	August 19, 2008	Pending submittal of area map	Valuzet Movie Ranch Helicopter Landing Zone, Section 1.
VR #10	August 21, 2008	August 27, 2008	Permission to leave one tower foundation in place at wreck out tower 24/2 in Section 1, due to likelihood of slope failure.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS FOR SEGMENT 1**  
(Updated 09-04-08)

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	July 3, 2008	July 16, 2008	Extra Workspace for steel placement and tower assembly near NC 12.
TEWS 6	September 4, 2008	September 4, 2008	Use of Staging area adjacent to NC 2 in Section 1.
TEWS 7	September 4, 2008	September 4, 2008	Use of dirt road adjacent to ten acre yard, Section 3.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS-SEGMENT 1



**Figure 1:** Guard pole installation along McBean Parkway near NC 11.



**Figure 2:** Tower erection near McBean Parkway in Section 1.





**Figure 3:** A foundation at the site of wreck out Tower 24/2 is proposed to be left in place, due to slope failure concerns if removed. A Variance Request was approved by CPUC to leave the footing in place.



**Figure 4:** Vegetation clearing at a helicopter landing zone along Del Sur Ridge Road on the ANF.



**Figure 5:** Crews staging equipment and materials along Del Sur Ridge Road within Section 2, on the ANF.



**Figure 6:** Section 3 construction on foundations near the Antelope Substation.





**Figure 7:** Section 3 construction of crane pads and roads near Elizabeth Lake Road.



**Figure 8:** Tire tracks show where a 12 kV crew truck went off road to access a wood pole. The crews were reminded to use only approved access routes shown on disturbance maps. The driver was stopped before crossing the wetland.