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PROJECT MEMORANDUM
DELTA DPA CAPACITY INCREASE SUBSTATION PROJECT

To: Junaid Rahman, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: July 11, 2008
Subject: Report #31: June 15, 2008 – July 5, 2008

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Jody Fessler

CPUC EM Jody Fessler was on site Friday, July 2nd.

SUBSTATION SITE:

Summary of Activity:

Phase I of the Delta DPA Capacity Increase Substation Project was energized June 9th.

During the week of June 15 through June 21, PG&E electrical crews worked on the installation of buried conduit and the substation ground grid in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 areas. At the end of the week, in areas where the underground work had been completed, crews began installing the bus structures. The Emmett Valley earthwork crew focused on cleaning up the fill loading site. At the substation, the crew scraped excess soil from the access road and added that material to the landscape berms around the substation site. They also worked on the sediment basin/energy dissipater associated with the SPCC pond outlet on the northern side of the substation site. Riprap was installed at the mouth of the outlet. Painters coating insulators at the south end of the substation site completed their work early in the week.

During the week of June 22 through June 28, PG&E electrical crews worked on terminating ground cables to structures. Installation of the bus support structures continued in areas where the underground work had been completed. The Emmett Valley crew completed clean-up of the fill loading site this week, removing debris and blending remaining soil into the adjacent contours. They also hauled away the stockpile of debris that had been removed from the imported fill during construction of the berms around the substation. Riprap was brought in to add to the sediment basin near the southeast corner of the substation. The rock was placed around the culvert outfall with a loader and arranged by hand. No soil was added to the berms this week, but it was watered several times a day. On Wednesday and Thursday, D and C Construction crews mowed vegetation inside the wildlife exclusion fence around the substation and along the access road (see Figure 1). The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI) walked the area inspecting for wildlife ahead of the work crews. They used string trimmers to reduce the risks of fire and damage to the fence. Since there have been many rattlesnake sittings at the project site, mowing was done to discourage animals from hiding in the dry vegetation and so that crews could see where they were walking. The painters removed masking from previously painted equipment staged near the south end of the substation and prepped and painted the Phase 1 transformer.

During the week of June 29 through July 5, PG&E electrical crews worked on the installation of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 bus structures and conductors (see Figure 2 and 3). The Emmett Valley crew worked on building up the berms around the substation (see Figure 4).

ACCESS ROAD:

Summary of Activity:

The access road was watered several times a day for dust control. Crews were reminded to keep speed limits to 15 mph and notify the PG&E EI if snakes were observed on the road.

STAGING AREAS:

Summary of Activity:

The staging yard/laydown yard on the north side of Sand Creek was used to store some materials for the bridge over Sand Creek. Rolled wattles, silt fencing and wildlife exclusion fencing are still installed around the staging yard. The area is sometimes used to park vehicles and trailers.

BRIDGE OVER SAND CREEK:

Summary of Activity:

Early in the week, a crew mobilized to install guard rails on the bridge over Sand Creek. After reviewing their plans with PG&E Senior Inspector, Don Secrest, it was determined that the crew lacked components to properly align the guard rails. The crew stored their materials in the staging yard on the north side of the bridge and Sand Creek. They will reschedule the construction activities after the required parts have been fabricated.

Pre-construction surveys were done by PG&E's EI prior to crews mobilizing to the bridge site for the guardrail work.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM observed that all work activities were in compliance with the approved Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. Escape ramps were placed in excavations to allow wildlife to escape and plywood or trench plates were placed over completed excavations to prevent wildlife from entering. Erosion controls were in place at all of the work areas. Heavy equipment was parked overnight in a designated area within the substation boundaries. Watering of the work area and access road for dust control has been conducted several times daily as needed. The CPUC EM reviewed PG&E EI daily reports and survey reports. Environmental training of crew personnel was on-going as new crew personnel came onto the site.

A pair of western kingbirds is nesting on a bus structure in the Phase 1 part of the substation. They are not interfering with service and do not seemed to be bothered by substation construction activities.

On Friday, June 20th, a mockingbird nest was found on a John Deere scraper tractor that had been parked at the substation site. The nest contained three eggs and appeared to be active. PG&E's environmental consultants contacted USFWS and CDFG. USFWS deferred to CDFG to make decisions regarding the nest. On Monday, June 23rd, Liam Davis of CDFG agreed to a proposal to relocate the scraper tractor to an inactive corner of the workspace several hundred feet away and take the scraper tractor out of service while the nest was active. On Wednesday, June 25th, the scraper tractor was relocated to the south boundary of the substation site about 375 feet away from its previous parking spot. Later in the day, the male mockingbird was observed perching on the scraper and the female was presumed to be on the nest. It was decided to be an unnecessary risk to try to get a visual of the female on the nest. As the week progressed, both adult birds were observed perching on the scraper and at other locations around the station with increasing frequency, raising doubts about the status of the nest. Observations Saturday morning, June 28th, confirmed that the birds were not incubating the eggs and that the nest was no longer active. This could be due to aggressive competition by western kingbirds nesting in the area. Liam Davis of CDFG was notified on Monday, June 30th, of the nest's change of status. Mr. Davis asked for additional observations that day and if still found to be inactive, agreed the scraper tractor could return to service. The birds were not observed on the nest all day; therefore, the scraper tractor was returned to service.

On Thursday morning, July 3rd, the PG&E EI observed that the roller/compactor had leaked oil overnight. The containment soil beneath the roller was collected for disposal and PG&E Senior Inspector, Don Secrest, arranged for the machine to be removed from the site for repairs.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On August 30, 2007, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for the PG&E Delta DPA Project. On August 29, 2007, PG&E requested authorization from the CPUC to commence with the civil/structural construction of the PG&E Delta DPA Capacity Increase Substation Project. The Project includes a proposed electric substation site, a new loop segment of an existing 230 kV transmission line, a temporary asphalt road, and a temporary bridge over Sand Creek in eastern Contra Costa County, within the limits of the City of Antioch, California. PG&E requested that NTP #1 include all construction activities related to the access road, bridge, substation, and transmission tower, as well as an extra staging area and a variance to Mitigation Measure CR-1. No additional NTPs are anticipated for the project.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week. Table 1 presents the Variance Requests reviewed and approved by the CPUC for the PG&E Delta DPA Project to date.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUESTS
(Updated 7-11-08)

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#1	7-26-07	8-30-07	Request to modify Mitigation Measure CR-1, which requires a 10-foot fenced protective buffer for the site boundary of CA-CCo-682H fronting on the improved access road for the Project. Approved under NTP #1.
#2	8-29-07	8-30-07	Request for a new laydown area south of the proposed access road as it veers southwest towards Sand Creek. Approved under NTP #1.
#3	10-17-07	10-17-07	Request to encroach 5 feet into the cultural buffer zone for the movement of equipment.
#4	10-30-07	10-30-07	Request to extend Sand Creek bridge work until November 3 and road work until November 9 (installation of wildlife exclusion fencing along road) as approved by USFWS. USFWS issuing amended BO that will allow work on access road throughout the winter.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

One Project Memorandum has been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date. On October 17, 2007, the CPUC EM issued a Project Memorandum for the encroachment of equipment into the cultural buffer zone near the northern bridge foundation on October 15th.

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1 – Vegetation on inside of wildlife exclusion fence mowed, July 2, 2008

Figure 2 – Substation site looking northwest, July 2, 2008.

Figure 3 – Substation site looking northeast, 2008.

Figure 4 – Water truck watering earthen berm around substation, July 2, 2008.