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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**  
**DOWNNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

**To:** Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 27, 2015  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #16: March 16 to March 22, 2015

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Southern California Edison (SCE) Downs Substation Expansion Project.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction and Minor Project Change (MPC) activities are provided in Tables 1 and 2, respectively (below).

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** David DuBois was on site March 17, 2015.

**Work Schedule:** Work continued Monday through Friday during the subject period. No work occurred Saturday or Sunday

## CPUC NTPs

### #1 Downs Substation Expansion Site

NTP #1 was issued on October 22, 2014 for the site preparation, grading, and construction of the Downs Substation expansion, adjacent to the existing Downs Substation on the corner of South Downs Street and West Ridgecrest Boulevard in Ridgecrest. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

#### Summary of Activity:

1. Preparation of the substation pad and surveying of the substation pad for foundation locations continued. Gravel and materials continued to be stored on the substation pad. The substation expansion pad is approximately 40% complete (see Figure 1).
2. Concrete deliveries, trenching, foundation installation and structure installation continued in the substation expansion area during the subject period (see Figures 2&3).
3. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) and associated wiring continued during the subject period.

#### Environmental Compliance:

1. Cultural monitoring has been suspended and did not occur during the subject period. The majority of grading is complete and the ground surface is 100% disturbed.
2. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject period. No biological resources were observed during the subject period.
3. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function along the property boundary fencing. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.
4. Following the approval of MPC #1 (see Table 2 below), vehicles are using an alternate route to access the Project work-area that avoids public traffic. During the subject period, the CPUC EM observed that the entrance was being left open; however, a biological monitor was posted at the gate throughout the day to check for wildlife (including desert tortoise).



5. Track-out was minimal during the subject period. A street sweeper is onsite to manage roadway cleaning as necessary.
6. Concrete washouts are properly contained.
7. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.
8. No dust issues were observed.

## #2 Linear Portion

NTP #2 was issued on February 20, 2015 for the linear portion of the Project which includes 115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

### Summary of Activity:

1. Fiber optic related boring activities continued along short sections of the telecom route near the SCE Ridgecrest Service Center during the subject period (see Figure 4).
2. Crews conducted work along the telecom route during the subject period.

### Environmental Compliance:

1. Biologists and Cultural specialists are continuing preconstruction clearance and resource avoidance delineations for work areas along portions of the NTP #2 linear alignment.
2. Biologists continue to monitor bird nests along the NTP #2 linear segment. During the subject period one mourning dove nest and one horned lark nest were affecting work areas.
3. On March 19, 2015, a revised Programmatic Nesting Buffer Plan was submitted to CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS which incorporated previous agency comments. The revised Plan was approved by CDFW March 20, 2015 during the subject period. CPUC concurrence was provided on March 23.
4. On 3/16/2015, contrary to instructions, line crews installed a pole anchor at Pole 4100363E before the CDFW 7-day review window for a Mohave ground squirrel survey was complete. However, a biologist was present to monitor activities and no sensitive resources were impacted by this work. Notifications of this non-compliance with the ITP were provided to CDFW and CPUC.
5. On 3/17/2015, crews conducted augering for a pole anchor in an area of paleontological sensitivity adjacent to Searles Substation without the required paleontological monitor present (see Figure 5). The issue was identified by SCE and a follow-up inspection by the paleontological monitor determined that no resources were discovered or impacted.

## Notices to Proceed

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

**Table 1**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**  
(Updated 03/27/15)

NTP #1	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	09/04/14	10/22/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Site preparation/grading, installation of substation components in the expanded Down's Substation footprint.
NTP #2	01/27/15	02/20/15	Remainder of the Project	115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades.

# Minor Project Changes

Table 2 summarizes the Minor Project Changes for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

**Table 2**  
**Minor Project Changes (MPCs)**  
(Updated 03/27/15)

<b>MPC</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>
MPC #1	12/05/14	12/15/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Requests the use of an existing dirt roadway that connects the southwest corner of the work area to Church Avenue.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH



Figure 1 – Installation of the substation pad continued during the subject period. View northeast, 01/27/15 above, 02/06/15 middle, 03/17/15 below.



Figure 2 – Structure installation occurred during the subject period. View northeast, 03/17/15.



Figure 3 – Trenching work continued during the subject period. View northwest, 03/17/15.



Figure 4 – Boring work for telecom lines continued during the subject period. View west, 03/17/15.



Figure 5 – Disturbed ground is visible where crews conducted augering work without a paleontological monitor present. View south, 03/17/15.