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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** November 2, 2011  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 13, October 10 to October 16, 2011

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission and Red Bluff Substation Projects.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Additionally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace Requests (TEWS) is provided in Table 3.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Jamie Miner was on site October 10 and 11.

## **CPUC NTPS**

### **DPV2 CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL YARDS**

NTP #1 was issued for construction and set-up of construction yards, including the Devers, Desert Center 1 (DC1), Desert Center 2 (DC2), Blythe, Beaumont, Menifee, and Perris Construction Yards.

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

1. Prior to the subject period, major construction activities had been conducted at all of the construction yards. These yards are now limited to minor activities associated with post-development, including mobilizing equipment and materials, designing and installing layout features, and fence maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Because major construction activities at the developed yards have been completed, monitoring during the subject period consisted of periodic inspections by SCE and the CPUC EM. Monitoring tasks included conducting biological sweeps, inspecting BMPs for effectiveness, confirming that Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are avoided, maintaining desert tortoise exclusionary fencing, and ensuring general compliance.

### **DPV2 EXCLUSIONARY FENCING AT 41 TOWER LOCATIONS**

NTP #2 was issued by CPUC for the installation of Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*) and flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) exclusionary fencing at 41 tower locations between the Devers Substation and Indio.

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

1. During the subject period, exclusionary fencing activities were completed at several locations, including Towers #2126 through #2137 and #2200. These activities included trenching and installation of fencing (see Figures 1 and 2).



### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE Biological Monitors conducted clearance sweeps at each of the tower locations prior to ground-disturbing activities. Additionally, the two water sources approved under Variance #11 (see Table 2) were subject to daily sweeps prior to use.
2. On October 12, a hydraulic leak from a rubber rack compact loader was observed by the SCE General Monitor. Operation of this piece of equipment was stopped immediately, and the spill was contained using onsite spill kit absorbent materials (see Figure 3). The contaminated soils were contained in plastic sheeting and, disposed of in drums, and removed offsite (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM was notified of the spill via phone call by SCE on October 13. It was determined during this discussion that any future spills would be reported directly to the CPUC EM only in the event that they exceed one gallon in volume. Otherwise, documentation of any lesser spills in daily reports is adequate. This is consistent with similar CPUC projects.
3. Adequate dust suppression techniques were implemented as reported by SCE General Monitors along the access road and at specific work sites.
4. All trucks and equipment were inspected for CA-registration and CARB red stickers.
5. Secondary containment was confirmed by the CPUC EM on October 11 during construction activities.

### **BEAUMONT #2 CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #3 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Beaumont #2 Construction Yard.

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

1. No activities associated with NTP #3 were conducted during the subject period.

### **INDIO CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #4 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Indio Construction Yard.

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

1. Construction activities associated with the development of the Indio Construction Yard were initiated during the subject period. These included BMP installation, delivery and installation of an onsite water tower, clearing of trash and debris, installation of tracker plates, and site grading.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. The SCE General and Biological Monitors reported that WEAP stickers were observed on all construction personnel hardhats. They also noted that dust suppression and BMP implementation were adequate and maintained throughout the subject period.
2. Project speed limit and dust reporting signs have been installed.
3. Due to the presence of several transient encampments, the Indio Police Department was called out to the site to provide final clearance prior to construction activities (see Figure 5).

## **RED BLUFF SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION**

NTP #5 was issued for upgrades of a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #5 were conducted during the subject period.

## **COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION**

NTP #6 was authorized for the construction and occupation of the following components associated with the CRS on non-BLM lands: (1) extension of an existing 33 kV distribution line to supply substation light and power; (2) installation of a telecommunications line; and, (3) access road improvements (including a new access road driveway) to serve the CRS.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #6 were conducted during the subject period.

## **BLM NTPS**

### **DPV2 AND COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION**

BLM NTP #1 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the DPV2 Project on BLM lands, which included the Colorado River Substation and associated components.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. Major activities occurring at the Red Bluff Substation during the subject period included the trenching, installation, and backfilling of desert tortoise exclusionary fencing (see Figure 6). The installation of desert tortoise fencing was completed by October 14. Upon completion, a small crew conducted minor maintenance and repair activities by hand along the fence line. Minor blading associated with access road improvements was also performed.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Biological monitors preceded construction vehicles to the site in order to check for wildlife along the access road and parking areas. Work sites were also swept daily for any wildlife prior to initiating construction activities. No special-status species were reported onsite during the subject period.
2. Construction crews were reminded to check beneath parked vehicles and equipment before moving, maintain 15 mph speed limit (or less), check gas caps on vehicles and equipment to avoid leaks, and to stay within the flagged project disturbance limits.
3. Several ESAs that surround the project site were avoided and no impacts in these areas were reported. Fencing of all ESAs in the vicinity of the project site was completed by October 12. In the interim, SCE Cultural Monitors assured that unfenced sensitive areas were avoided.
4. The CPUC EM confirmed that BMPs were in place and effective during an October 10 site visit (see Figure 7).

## RED BLUFF SUBSTATION

BLM NTP #2 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the Red Bluff Substation and the Desert Center Communication Site.

### Summary of Activity:

1. Installation of exclusionary fencing continued throughout the subject period and was limited to placing metal wiring to prohibit bighorn sheep entry (see Figure 8). The entire exclusionary fence was completed on October 10.
2. Civil surveyors began staking pothole locations to find the depth of a gas line that lies adjacent to the access road on October 12. Staking was completed by October 14.

### Environmental Compliance:

1. A clearance survey, which began on October 9, of the entire fenced area was completed on October 12. These surveys were conducted by two teams of biologists and were conducted along 5-meter transects. Greater attention was focused along the larger eastern washes that support dense ironwood and palo verde stands. Inactive bird nests were removed from trees by a separate team of avian biologists during the survey. No special-status species, burrow, or weed infestations were identified within the fenced area during this survey.
2. Phase II of the burrowing owl survey was initiated on October 10 and was completed on October 11. Two biologists surveyed a 150-meter buffer around the site along 30-meter transects. No burrowing owls or owl sign were identified.
3. By the end of the subject period, all transplanting of special-status plants had been completed.

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) or Project Memoranda (PM) were issued for construction activities during the subject period.

### AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES DURING CONSTRUCTION (OTHER THAN CPUC EMS):

None

### CPUC/BLM NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS)

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC/BLM Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the DPV2 and Red Bluff Projects, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**NTPS**  
(Updated 11/02/11)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<b>CPUC NTPs</b>				
NTP #1	04/28/11	06/23/11	Yards	Authorization to proceed with the development of the Devers, Desert Center 1, Desert Center 2, Summit, Blythe, Perris, Beaumont, and Menifée Construction Yards.
NTP #2	08/05/11	09/09/11	T/L	Installation of exclusionary fencing, Devers to Blythe. No cultural resources affected. Bio pending.
NTP #3	08/26/11	09/19/11	Yards	Construction of Beaumont Construction Yard #2.
NTP #4	09/09/11	09/20/11	Yards	Construction of Indio Construction Yard.

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
NTP #5	09/16/11	10/11/11	Red Bluff Distribution Line	Upgrades to a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation, non-BLM lands.
NTP #6	09/16/11	10/17/11	Substation	Authorization to proceed with improvements to the new Colorado River Substation on private lands, including extension of the existing 33 kV distribution line, installation of a new telecommunication line, and access road improvements.
	09/09/11	Under Review	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1); waiting for response from SCE on request for additional information.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – CRS to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and replacement of existing DPV1 overhead ground wire; non-BLM lands.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – Devers to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between the existing Devers Substation and the new Red Bluff Substation; non-BLM lands.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.
<b>BLM NTPs</b>				
BLM NTP #1	08/26/11	09/19/11	DPV2 Substation, T/L	Authorization to proceed with construction of the DPV2 Transmission Line, Colorado River Substation, and associated project components on BLM lands.
BLM NTP #2	08/26/11	09/19/11	Substation,	Construction of Red Bluff Substation and associated project components, BLM lands.

## 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 11/02/11)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #1	05/06/11	05/24/11	Devers- Valley	Construction of traditional lattice towers instead of “Tetra” towers at two locations (Structures #1139 and #1140)
VR #2	04/21/11	05/26/11	All	Revisions to Mitigation Measure B-7d pertaining to seasonal restrictions for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard to support consistency with conditions provided in the Biological Opinion.
VR #3	07/12/11	07/18/11	DC 1 & DC 2 Yards	Utilize offsite well location and installation of 12,000-gallon water tank for filling trucks.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #4	07/06/11	07/21/11	Menifee Yard	Expansion of Menifee Construction Yard, which would include approximately 5 acres of additional disturbance within the western portion of the parcel, for material storage and other activities.
VR #5	04/22/11	07/28/11	CRS Devers and Valley Substations, Series Capacitor Site	Modification of APM A-7 regarding carpooling for construction at substations.
VR #6	07/07/11	08/01/11	Menifee, Beaumont, Perris Yards	Request to remove Mitigation Measures B-13a and B-13b, and to modify B-1a, B-1a (revised), and B-7e pertaining to Western Riverside County MSHCP compliance.
VR #7	08/11/11	08/22/11	Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, Blythe Yards	Request to utilize offsite water hydrants at Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, and Blythe Construction Yards.
VR #8	08/26/11	08/27/11	Beaumont Yard	Request to install seeded jute netting along the property frontage at Beaumont Construction Yard.
VR #9	08/24/11	09/01/11	DC 2 Yard	Request for installation of temporary power poles outside of Desert Center 2 Construction Yard.
VR #10	08/26/11	09/01/11	Devers & Summit Yards	Utilize offsite water locations needed for dust suppression at Devers and Summit Construction Yards.
—	09/21/11	Retracted	Perris Yard	Request for additional workspace involving vegetation clearing, installation of BMPs, and temporary driveway installation at Perris Construction Yard.
VR #11	09/26/11	09/28/11	T/L	Two water sources for exclusionary fencing work.
VR #12	10/13/11	10/18/11	T/L	Request for parking/temporary staging of vehicles along existing access road within the Coachella Valley Preserve during exclusionary fencing activities.
VR #13	10/18/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to install a temporary guard structure along the entrance of the existing transmission line access road for Colorado River Substation.
VR #14	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
	10/25/11	Under Review	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
	10/26/11	Under Review	Substation	Request to formalize clarifications to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 regarding plant salvage performance standards.
	10/26/11	Under Review	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers Construction Yard.
	10/27/11	Under Review	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.



**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 11/02/11)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description
#1	07/20/11	07/27/11	Blythe Yard	Use of offsite hydrant and installation of water tank at location adjacent to Blythe Construction Yard
#2	07/28/11	08/04/11	Menifee Yard	Use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, and a flexible hose to supply water to a 4,000-gallon water truck.
#3	08/16/11	08/16/11	Menifee Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, approximately 200 yards north of previously approved location.
—	09/06/11	Retracted	Devers Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, including installation of above ground pipeline and water towers.
#4	09/29/11	09/29/11	T/L	Use of parking areas along primary access road within 400-ft total distance exclusionary fencing locations with exception of sites within the Coachella Valley Preserve.



## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Completion of exclusionary fencing activities at one of the tower locations.



**Figure 2:** Exclusionary fencing has been installed at a tower location. Note avoidance of ESA (orange construction fencing).



**Figure 3:** Small hydraulic fluid spill being contained during exclusionary fence installation at Tower #2132.





**Figure 4:** Contaminated soil from hydraulic fluid spill at Tower #2132 was isolated in plastic sheeting and removed from site the following day.



**Figure 5:** View of trash and debris at Indio Construction Yard site prior to construction. Note homeless encampment in background.



**Figure 6:** Installation of desert tortoise exclusionary fencing at CRS site.



**Figure 7:** BMPs implemented, including contained parking areas, at the CRS site.





**Figure 8:** Exclusionary fencing activities completed at the Red Bluff Substation site. Note top wire along fence to prohibit bighorn sheep entry.