



5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, [www.aspeneg.com](http://www.aspeneg.com)

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 16, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 28, January 23 to January 29, 2012

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line and Red Bluff Substation Projects. This report is organized as follows:

- Transmission Line Construction
- Substation Construction and Upgrades
- Construction Yards and Other Workspaces

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 (TEWS) and non-compliance activities are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

## TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation to Red Bluff Substation
  - Survey staking, BMP installation, and vegetation clearing occurred at Towers 2650 and CR1-3W and their associated access roads.
  - Additional survey staking activities were conducted at CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-5W, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E and Red Bluff Loop-In Towers RB1-2W, RB2-2W, RB1-2E, RB1-3E, RB2-3E, RB1-4E, and RB2-4E.
  - Approved access road signs were installed along the right-of-way (ROW) between Towers 2432 and 2448.
  - Site verification surveys occurred from Towers 2507 through 2510.
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
  - No major construction activities occurred along this segment of the project during the subject period.
  - Survey staking was installed at helicopter landing zone (HLZ) H4 and from Towers 2331 to 2356 and 2400 to 2412.
  - Approved access road signs were installed along the ROW between Towers 2417 and 2432.
  - Site verification surveys occurred at HLZ H5 and from Towers 2413 to 2433, 2503 to 2506, and 2511 to 2532.



### 3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation

- BMP installation and vegetation clearing and/or trimming occurred at Towers 1051, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061/R1, 1062/R2, and 1064/R4 (see Figure 1).
- Spur road and crane pad grading and compacting occurred at Towers 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061/R1, 1062/R2, 1064/R4 (see Figure 2).
- Site staking activities occurred throughout the Devers to Valley section of the transmission line.
- Site verification surveys occurred from Tower 1006 through 1065.

### Environmental Compliance

- Fugitive dust suppression was noted by general, biological, and CPUC monitors at all construction sites and access roads (see Figure 3).
- Biological and Archeological Monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- A Biological Monitor noted on January 25, 2012 that a roller/compactor was delivered the day before, after the biological staff had left for the day from Tower 1061 and 1060. The roller was parked just inside the access road fence. No resources were impacted. The Field Lead was contacted with the information.
- The discovery of a non-project related burrowing owl mortality was reported along the Devers-Red Bluff portion of the ROW between Tower sites 2355 and 2356 on January 26. There were no identifiable signs on the cause of mortality. The SCE Biological Monitor notified the Field Lead and the carcass was moved just off the access road.
- One California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*) was killed during grading activities at Tower 1062.
- One California legless lizard was relocated to outside of the disturbance area of Tower 1061.
- On January 24, 2012, environmentally sensitive area (ESA) signs were installed at the gated entrance for Towers 1056 and 1055 to prevent crews from accessing the area and protecting an active burrowing owl burrow.

### Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):

None.

## SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES

### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – BMPs were installed along the CRS access road shoulder and in the southwest corner of the substation along the exclusionary fencing. Maintenance of existing BMPs occurred along portions of the access road and within the water containment area associated with the well at the substation. Vegetation clearing activities were conducted in the north-west and northeast quarters of the substation, at the northern laydown yard within the substation, and along the access road at the west edge of the substation. Road grading and/or recontouring occurred along the primary access road and the new roads associated with ingress/egress to the substation. Portions of the newly installed exclusionary fencing were removed and modified, and a new chain link fence was erected around the southern laydown yard (see Figure 4). Water release activities from the new well were continuous throughout the subject period and were implemented through the recently installed sprinkler system (see Figure 5).
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – No construction activities associated with the CRS telecomm line occurred during the subject period.

3. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – BMPs, associated with the well area, were installed and/or maintained within the northwest corner of the substation. Vegetation clearing also occurred in the well area. Well development activities continued throughout the subject period and included conducting turbidity testing by swabbing the bore hole. Gas line tests using ground penetrating radar were conducted along the access road between Corn Springs Road and the substation.

### **Environmental Compliance**

1. SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
2. ESA signs and flagging were installed to protect active red-tailed hawk nests at existing DPV1 Towers 129-2, 129-3, 130-2 and 132-1 (see Figure 6). Construction crews continued grading the access road on each side of the ESA buffer, but restricted access within the buffer limits.
3. An unanticipated discovery of cultural resources occurred during vegetation clearing activities at CRS. The resource was identified on the surface by the SCE Archeological Monitor. Immediately after the discovery of the isolated artifact, the equipment operator was asked to avoid the area until further information could be collected.
4. A minor diesel fuel spill at CRS was reported on January 27 by the SCE Monitor. The spill was no more than 1 gallon in volume and was immediately shoveled into a spill kit drum until contaminated soil was completely removed.
5. A minor diesel red dye spill of less than one-half gallon was reported by the SCE Monitor on January 25 at the Red Bluff Substation. The dye was mistakenly poured into the silt fence barrier while refueling the water pump. Subsequently, the water pump began to leak and carried water and red dye beyond the silt fencing into a gravel pile associated with the well. Absorbent pads were utilized to soak up all visible red dye. All of the contaminated gravel was removed and placed on plastic sheeting until it could be placed into sealable containers and removed from the site (see Figure 7).
6. Several observations of Mojave fringe-toed lizard were reported in the project area associated with CRS during the subject period. The majority of these were relocated to nearby undisturbed habitat by the SCE Biological Monitors. However, SCE reported a fringe-toed lizard mortality that occurred during grading work along the CRS access road on January 23. BLM and CDFG were notified of the incident.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Substation Construction and Upgrade activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

### **Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

### **CONSTRUCTION YARDS AND OTHER WORKSPACES**

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

Non-Federal Lands:

1. Blythe Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Minor activities included the installation of bird netting.
2. Desert Center 1 Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Minor activities included the maintenance of bird netting.
3. Desert Center 2 Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Minor activities included the installation of bird netting.

4. Chiriaco Summit Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
5. Indio Yard – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Minor activities included the installation of bird netting.
6. Indio 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
7. Devers Yard – Crews wrapped tarps around the wire reels as a preventative measure against nest building.
8. Devers 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
9. Beaumont Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
10. Beaumont 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
11. Menifee Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
12. Perris Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a weekly spot check of all of the construction yards. No compliance issues were reported during the subject period.
2. Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period. No compliance issues or special-status species observations were reported.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Construction yard activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**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 03/14/12)

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 Menifee 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 #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 #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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.
NTP #7	09/09/11	12/01/11	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1).
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/02/11	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.
NTP #9	10/08/11	12/02/11	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.
NTP #10	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.
NTP #11	11/08/11	12/10/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
NTP #12	01/20/12	02/03/12	Yards	Construction of Desert Center 3 Construction Yard.
<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 03/14/12)

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.
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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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	10/26/11	11/10/11	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers #1 Construction Yard.
VR #14	11/10/11	11/28/11	Substation	Request for increased well pumping to support civil work, including access road improvements, at Colorado River Substation.
VR #15	12/13/11	12/14/11	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.
VR #16	12/22/11	01/04/12	Project-wide	Request to approve alternate/extended work hours project-wide.
VR #17	01/04/12	01/09/12	Project-wide	Request to utilize existing approved construction yard and/or exclusionary fencing water sources for transmission line construction needs.
VR #18	10/25/12 10/26/12	Denied 01/13/12	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Request to allow the usage of helicopter landing zone H9-DV as a replacement for H8-DV.
VR #20	01/13/12	01/19/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
VR#21	01/20/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Lake Tamarisk area for dust suppression

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #22	01/25/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request to install 10,000-gallon standing water tanks at three locations.
VR #23	01/27/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request to modify NTP #10 and MM AQ-1g for additional t-line helicopter construction.
VR #24	02/08/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request for approval to purchase MWD water credits in lieu of Colorado River water credits due to the unavailability of water allotments within the Colorado River Basin.
VR #25	02/10/12	02/28/12	T/L	Request for use of existing DPV1 access roads and spur/stub roads for parking and staging of vehicles and equipment.
VR #26	02/23/12	Under review	T/L	Request to modify disturbance areas associated with Red Bluff loop in towers RB
VR #27	03/09/12	Under review	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
<b>BLM</b>				
BLM #1	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.
BLM #2	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
DNA #1	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
DNA #2	12/21/11		Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.
DNA #3	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Request to relocate a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District distribution line located at the Series Capacitor site.
DNA #4	02/01/12	Under review	T/L	Request for the addition of proposed helicopter construction and maintenance platforms to the description included in the Project Refinements 1 and 2 documents.
DNA #5	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 03/14/12)

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.

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment	Description
—	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.

## NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS

Table 4 provides a summary of reported non-compliance incidents.

**TABLE 4**  
**CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA**  
 (Updated 03/14/12)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
<b>CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)</b>			
PM #1	10/28/11	CRS Dist. Line	Construction vehicles leaving marked disturbance limits at two locations along CRS distribution line.
PM #2	01/18/12	Tower 2649/ CR1-2W	DPV2 Construction contractor vehicle driving outside of the approved tower and access road disturbance area limits.
PM #3	03/08/12	Tower 1059 & 1060	Failure to comply with MM B-5 which requires that 300-foot buffers are established around active bird nests. Working within unapproved active nest buffers.
<b>CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)</b>			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unapproved removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.



## Project Photographs



**Figure 1.** Vegetation clearing at Tower 1062/R2.



**Figure 2.** Grading at Tower 1064.



**Figure 3.** Fugitive dust control at Tower 1062/R2 during grading.



**Figure 4.** Exclusionary fence modifications at CRS.



**Figure 5.** Sprinkler system installed at CRS to control water release from active well.



**Figure 6.** ESA established for active raptor nest along CRS access road.



**Figure 7.** Contaminated gravel placed on plastic sheeting at Red Bluff Substation.