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## PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 11, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 34, March 5 to March 11, 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 (CRS) to Red Bluff Substation

- Tower assembly crews worked at Towers 2649 and 2650 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-2E, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, CR1-5E, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, and CR1-4W. Tower erection activities were conducted at Tower 2649 and CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-3E and CR1-2W (see Figure 1).
- Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Tower 2650 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-2E, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, CR1-5E, CR1-2W, and CR1-3W.
- Foundation drilling activities occurred at Tower 2650 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1E, CR1-2E, CR1-3E, CR1-3W, and CR1-4W (see Figure 2).
- Vegetation clearing activities were conducted at CRS Loop-In Tower CR1-2E.
- BMPs were installed and/or maintained at CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E. Installation and/or maintenance of BMPs also occurred along the access roads associated with these locations.

#### 2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation

- No major construction activities were conducted along the right-of-way (ROW) or associated Red Bluff Loop-In Towers during the subject period.
- Potholing activities associated with identifying the location of an existing gas pipeline were conducted, initiating at Corn Springs Road and working west.
- Site grading activities were conducted for the water stand tank location at Rice Road south of Interstate 10.



### 3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation

#### Non-USFS Land

- BMP installation occurred at Towers 1004-1006, 1059, 1060, and 1062.
- Vegetation clearing occurred at Towers 1004 – 1006, 1011, 1014, and 1015.
- Spur road and crane pad grading occurred at Tower 1012 and 1014 (see Figure 3).
- Foundation drilling occurred at Towers 1057, 1058, 1059, and 1060 (see Figure 4).
- Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Towers 1059, 1060, 1061, and 1062.
- Tower assembly and steel deliveries occurred at Tower 1061 and R1.
- Site verification surveys occurred at Towers 1025, 1026, 1055, 1056, and 1071-1091.

#### USFS Land

- Helicopter temporary platforms were installed at Towers 1047 and 1048.

### **Environmental Compliance**

- Biological and Archaeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- Fugitive dust control was noted by SCE general and biological monitors at all construction sites and access roads; however, the SCE General Monitor reported that water was late at being applied along the CRS Loop-In access road on March 7. Conditions were windy and crews did not wait for water to arrive onsite before continuing grading activities. Once the contractor was notified, some watering occurred, but sparingly.
- Fugitive dust control was also noted at the H2 Landing Zone for helicopter work for temporary platform installation on USFS land by the CPUC EM (see Figure 5).
- SCE General Monitors noted that the drilling crews working in the Devers to Valley portion of the alignment left their work areas clean and in compliance.
- Two desert tortoise individuals that had previously been relocated from areas near Towers 2504 and 2514 were monitored daily by SCE Biological Monitors. On March 10, the SCE Biological Monitor noted that the tortoise associated with Tower 2504 was observed inside the relocation burrow; however, the tortoise associated with Tower 2514 was not detected.
- On March 6, 2012, the CPUC EM arrived at the H2 Landing Zone within desert tortoise modeled habitat and noted that construction crews had moved onto the site without the area being biologically swept and there was no Biological Monitor onsite. When the CPUC EM questioned the onsite foreman, she was told crews were on standby until a monitor arrives. A Biological Monitor arrived onsite approximately 45 minutes later and conducted a sweep of the site.
- On March 7, 2012, the CPUC EM arrived to monitor construction at Towers 1059 and 1060, and discovered from the monitors that crews at both sites were working within 300 feet of active Raven nests that had not yet been reported to the CPUC or CDFG (see Figure 6). The nests were first discovered on March 5, 2012 at 1060 and March 7, at 1059. The CPUC EM immediately contacted the SCE Biologist to inquire about the incident. SCE stated that a 300-foot Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) would be established around each nest until CDFG granted a buffer reduction. On March 8, 2012 the CPUC EM found that only 25-foot buffers were established around the nests and construction was still occurring at both sites without a buffer reduction granted by the CDFG. The CPUC issued Project Memorandum #3 for this incident. On March 8, 2012, CDFG granted a 25-foot ESA buffer for both nests.

Project Memoranda #3 was issued during the subject period for Transmission Line activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

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

None.

**SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES**

**Summary of Activity**

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – Rough grading of the substation site continued throughout the subject period. Additionally, trenching activities associated with the installation of reinforced concrete pipes (RCPs) were conducted. Grading and culvert installation continued along the primary access road. BMPs were installed and/or maintained as appropriate within the substation work limits and along the access road.
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – No major activities were conducted along the CRS telecomm line during the subject period.
3. Series Capacitor (BLM Lands) – No major activities were conducted at the Series Capacitor site during the subject period. Staking activities associated with the IID distribution line occurred on March 9.
4. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – Grading of cut and fill material continued at the Red Bluff Substation site and laydown area throughout the subject period. Temporary road improvement activities were conducted along the access road east of the substation to facilitate equipment passage through a constricted, heavily incised drainage. BMPs were installed along the portion of the road that was improved. Additional well development activities, involving pumping of the well, also occurred.

**Environmental Compliance**

- SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite, as appropriate, throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
- On March 6, SCE Biological and Cultural Monitors reported that a mechanic for subcontractor Professional Electric became stuck in sand approximately 50 feet outside of the approved disturbance limits associated with the CRS primary access road (see Figure 7). One creosote bush was slightly damaged and there were no other impacts to biological or cultural resources.
- On March 7, the CPUC EM identified excessive amount of track-out while entering the CRS primary access road from Wiley's Well Road (see Figure 8). The SCE General Monitor was notified and the track-out was removed the same day.
- Upon arriving at the entrance to the CRS primary access road on March 8, the CPUC EM was notified by the SCE Native American and Cultural Monitors of an incident that had occurred just moments earlier. According to the SCE Monitors, a bulldozer operator scraped a portion of the CRS access road that occurs within an active ESA. The SCE Monitors immediately notified the ULM site representative who spoke with the equipment operator. No impacts to resources were identified and additional signs (No Grading) and flagging were installed in the area.

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:

Blythe Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Desert Center 1 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Desert Center 2 Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Chiriaco Summit Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio 2 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Devers Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries. Gravel in the yard is currently being dragged each day to prevent nesting bird activity in the yard.

Devers 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Beaumont Yard (Material Yard) - No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries. Gravel in the yard is currently being dragged each day to prevent nesting bird activity in the yard.

Beaumont 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Menifee Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking. Gravel in the yard is currently being dragged each day to prevent nesting bird activity in the yard (See Figure 10).

Perris Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. This yard is not currently being utilized.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

- Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period.
- CPUC EMs observed adequate measures, including bird netting, secondary containment, and BMPs in place at all construction yard locations.

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 04/11/12)

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 #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.

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<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 04/11/12)

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.
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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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
VR #21 Mod	03/16/12	03/21/12	T/L	Modification to VR #21. Request installation of two driveways and an underground water line adjacent to the approved stand tank locations at the Lake Tamarisk Resort water source.
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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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	03/09/12	03/16/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located on a private date farm.
VR #27	03/09/12	03/20/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
VR #28	03/22/12	03/30/12	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
VR #29	03/22/12	04/04/12	T/L	DVP1 minor relocation of outage pull sites.
VR #30	03/23/12	04/10/12	Substation	CRS pull sites.
	03/16/12	Under review	T/L	HLS H7-DV boundary modification.
	03/28/12	Under review	Substation	Request for HLZ (helicopter landing zone) at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower site RB1-2W.
	04/04/12	Under review	T/L	Request for a HLZ and temporary disturbance area shifts.
	04/06/12	Under review	Substation	Additional water sources @ Red Cloud Road, Red Bluff Substation.
<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	02/01/12	Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.
BLM #3	01/24/12	02/28/12	Red Bluff	Rock Crushing
BLM #4	03/16/12	03/30/12	Substation	Red Bluff Loop-in pull site modifications.
BLM #6	03/23/12	04/10/12	Substation	CRS pull sites.
	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.
	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.
	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.



Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
	03/22/12	Under review	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
	04/04/12	Under review	T/L	Request for a HLZ and temporary disturbance area shifts.
	04/04/12	Under review	Substation	Red Bluff Substation access road realignment.
<b>USFS</b>				
USFS-1	03/15/12	Under Review	T/L	SBNF engineering modifications (revised disturbance areas).

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/11/12)

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.
—	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 04/11/12)

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.
PM #4	04/04/12	Tower 2515, 2520, & 2526	Impacts to desert pavement at Towers 2520 and 2526 by not implementing one of the approved methods stated in the revised Desert Pavement Plan. Impacts to desert tortoise habitat when a road was built near Tower 2515 that was not approved.
<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.** Tower assembly and erection activities at Towers 2649 and CR1-2W.



**Figure 2.** Foundation drilling at Tower CR1-2E.



**Figure 3.** Spur road and crane pad grading at Tower 1014



**Figure 4.** Foundation drilling at Tower 1059



**Figure 5.** Adequate dust control during helicopter operations at the H2 Landing Zone



**Figure 6.** Foundation concrete pouring occurring at Tower 1060 within the 300ft ESA buffer for an active common raven nest.



**Figure 7.** Area near entrance to CRS primary access road where subcontractor truck drove outside project disturbance limits (photo courtesy of Ethan Ripperger).



**Figure 8.** Excessive track-out observed by CPUC EM at ingress/egress to CRS primary access road.