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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 7, 2010  
**Subject:** Report 23: February 21, 2010 – March 20, 2010

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS (EM):** Lynn Stafford, Justin Wood

CPUC EM, Justin Wood was on site February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The SCE El Casco Project includes the following components:

- Construction of the new El Casco 220/115/12-kilovolt (kV) substation within the Norton Younglove Reserve, Riverside County, California;
- Replacement of approximately 15.4 miles of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and replacement of support structures within existing SCE ROWs in the Cities of Banning and Beaumont and unincorporated Riverside County;
- Rebuilding 115 kV switchracks within Zanja and Banning Substations in the Cities of Yucaipa and Banning, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, respectively;
- Installation of telecommunications equipment at the El Casco Substation and at SCE's existing Mill Creek Communication Site, San Bernardino County; and
- Installation of fiber optic cables within public streets and on existing SCE structures between the Cities of Redlands and Banning in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, respectively.

The following compliance and construction activities occurred during the subject period:

**EL CASCO SUBSTATION**

The drainage V-ditch just east of the Project trailers and the associated culvert leading to San Timoteo Creek around the western side of the substation site were both completed and tied together during the subject period.

The tension cable anchor systems have been completed on the four terraces on the eastern ridge to put pressure on an underlying clay layer and thereby prevent land slippage. The anchor systems on the ten terraces on the western ridge have also been completed. Excavation of the toe of the western slope was completed with scrapers during the subject period. The installation of V-ditches on the terraces was nearly completed (see Figure 1). Application of soil stabilizer to the terraced slopes and various erodible slopes throughout the substation was also applied.

Work continued on the box culvert across the access road near the entrance gate. The outlet of the box culvert was completed early in the subject period and the inlet to the box culvert was completed near the end of the subject period (see Figures 2 & 3). The culvert was back filled and was nearly complete by the end of the subject period with the exception of the tie-in with the V-ditch adjacent to the road.

Grading for the new access road was nearly completed and application of the road base also began during the end of the subject period.



Installation of the chain link fencing along the access road and substation pad continued during the subject period. Shade cloth and the sound barrier were also being installed (see Figures 4 & 5).

### **BANNING SUBSTATION**

Civil and structural steel work has been completed and work is now being conducted on the installation of electrical components, including wiring of the new MEER building. All work occurred within the perimeter fence of the existing substation. All materials are being delivered from Lincoln Street through the substation.

### **ZANJA SUBSTATION**

Construction activity is now limited to within the fenced substation pad. No new work was conducted outside of the fenced substation with the exception of some deliveries and transport of dirt off site via the staging area.

The foundation for the new MEER building was completed during the subject period (see Figure 6). The new steel rack and MEER building were also completed (see Figure 7). Work is continuing on the installation of the new electrical components.

### **MILL CREEK COMMUNICATION SITE**

The NTP request for the Mill Creek Communication Site was submitted to CPUC by SCE on June 19, 2009. The pre-construction compliance process is currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the Mill Creek element include: biological surveys, regulatory permit submittals, outstanding hydrology submittals, geotechnical investigation submittals, as well as visual mitigation submittals. Potential EIR Addendum materials for work not previously analyzed in the EIR are also outstanding.

### **FIBER OPTIC CABLE (FOC) INSTALLATION**

During the subject period, two SCE FOC crews worked on the route. Both crews worked on installing hardware and cable along Lincoln Street in Banning on the Banning to Maraschino Segment. Work has stopped on the El Casco to Yucaipa Segment. Cable has been pulled from the El Casco substation to the intersection of San Timoteo Canyon Road and Live Oak Canyon Road.

### **115 kV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT**

In December 2009, SCE requested to begin construction of Segment 3 while pending submittals and analysis for the other 115 kV sub-transmission segments are being processed. Segment 3 is a one to one pole replacement within the Sun Lakes Development in Banning between Highland Springs Road and Highland Home Road. On December 9, a pre-NTP Biological Resource Survey Report was submitted for Segment 3 of the proposed Subtransmission Cable Route which was subsequently field validated by one of the CPUC EMs. Other pre-construction submittals for Segment 3 have also been approved and NTP #7 was issued by CPUC on January 5, 2010. On March 10, a biological clearance survey was submitted for Segment 3 which was subsequently field validated by one of the CPUC EMs.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold pending finalization of the design of Segment 1, 2 and 4, and updated description for Segments 5–8. Review of supplemental geotechnical submittals for Segments 5 – 8 was also conducted during the subject period.

### **CONSTRUCTION YARDS & OTHER WORKSPACE NEEDS**

Variance Request #1 for a laydown yard immediately south of SCE's existing Maraschino Substation in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County, was requested on April 1 and approved by CPUC on April 16, 2009. Construction of the laydown yard began on May 28 and was completed by June 12, 2009. The yard is currently being used for the storage of materials, including transmission towers.

No requests for additional construction yards or other workspace needs have been submitted to date.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- Biological, cultural resource, paleontological, and other mitigation monitoring continued to be provided by NRC, LSA, and Paleo Solutions as needed. During the subject week, biological monitors were continually present during construction at both the El Casco and Zanja Substation and the FOC work areas. Paleontological monitors continued to be present at the El Casco Substation site at all times during construction. No environmental monitor was continually present at the Banning Substation site, because all work was contained within the substation and no environmental issues were involved.
- Equipment was continually checked for air pollution control compliance and drip pans were placed where necessary to contain leakages.
- Dust control, when necessary, is being maintained by water trucks at the El Casco Substation and Zanja Substation work sites.
- Concrete truck wash-out basins are established as necessary in areas where concrete placement occurs.
- Security is now on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. At some time in the future, more security may be assigned as construction materials are moved to the substation area.
- The entrance to the mobile water tower next to San Timoteo Canyon Road north of El Casco Substation that is one of the water sources for the Project is now marked with safety signs, as is San Timoteo Canyon Road for considerable distance in both directions from the entrance.
- Variance #6 to enable a Portable Fuel Tank installation at the El Casco Substation site was approved on October 27, 2009. The design and proposed placement of the tank ensure protection from diesel spill. CPUC determined that no further biological and cultural resource surveys were necessary because of prior surveys in the area. The tank will not be installed until construction fuel needs are greater than at present.
- During the subject period, fossils have continued to be located, processed, and recovered at the El Casco Substation site. The majority of these new fossils have been found during wet screening of material collected earlier in construction. A significant paleontological find was made during the subject period when a medium sized cat was identified in the lab from material recovered earlier in construction. The fossils found so far include, but are not limited to, horse/camel, sloth, cats, birds, rodent teeth, and plant material. To date, a wide variety of plant, mammal, bird, and invertebrate material has been recovered. All parties, including the monitors, SCE staff, and the contractor have worked together to facilitate the recovery of fossils, and to minimize construction delay. CPUC/Aspen personnel have been kept informed of discovery events as they have happened. To date, the monitoring of construction activities and treatment of fossil discoveries have followed the El Casco Paleontological Treatment Plan.
- NRC bio monitors began noise monitoring adjacent to the San Timoteo Creek riparian area during the subject period. This monitoring is being done in accordance with the Noise Analysis/Management Plan for the El Casco Substation and Access Road sites, prepared by Chambers Group.
- Nesting bird activities throughout the project area have begun to increase throughout the project area. SCE/NRC Biological Monitors are continuing to find and monitor nests throughout the project area. A great horned owl nest was found by the CPUC EM on March 19. This new nest is within 100 feet of the El Casco Substation access road and the SCE/NRC Biological Monitors will continue to monitor this newly found nest. Project activity is not creating a significant impact on any of the nests in the project area.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) and Project Memorandum (PM), and other incidents (i.e., spills, etc.) for the SCE El Casco System Project.

**TABLE 1**  
**NCRs, PROJECT MEMORANDUM, & OTHER INCIDENTS**  
 (Updated 04-07-10)

<b>Type</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
PM #1	03/16/09	Failure to comply with Mitigation Measure B-18 before, during and after vegetation clearing at the El Casco Substation site. Construction equipment went outside of approved Project boundaries.
	8/21/09	A SCE internal noncompliance at the Banning Substation was issued for mobilization of the site before environmental training and biological pre-construction sweep were conducted.
PM #2	8/27/09	The initiation of construction activity before CPUC authorization and validation of the biological survey at the site of the NTP #3, MOD #1 pole work in Banning.
PM #3	01/14/10	Use of an unapproved area for staging and parking at the Zanja Substation site.
PM #4	03/16/10	Riparian work during nesting bird season along El Casco Substation access road.

**NOTICE TO PROCEED (NTP) SUMMARY**

Table 2 summarizes the NTPs submitted, reviewed, and issued to date for the SCE El Casco System Project.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 04-07-10)

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	02/20/09	02/23/09	Vegetation clearing activities at the future El Casco Substation Site located in the Norton Younglove Reserve Area in Riverside County.
#2	05/15/09	05/22/09	Construction of the underground fiber optic elements of the El Casco System Project in the Cities of Banning and Beaumont.
#3	04/10/09	08/13/09	Banning Substation
#3 Mod #1	08/21/09	08/26/09	Modify work within Banning Substation and add work at 3 existing transmission poles located outside of the substation.
#4	03/05/09	8/27/09	Fiber optic cable installation, remaining (see NTP #2).
#4 Mod #1	09/30/09	10/02/09	Tree trimming.
#5	05/08/09	8/27/09	El Casco Substation construction.
#6	06/19/09	12-02-09	Zanja Substation
#7	12/17/09	1-05-10	Segment 3 of 115 kV subtrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement.
	06/19/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Mill Creek Communication Site

1. Compliance submittals pending.

**VARIANCE & TEWS REQUEST SUMMARY**

Tables 3 and 4 summarize the Variance and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted, reviewed, and issued to date for the SCE El Casco System Project, respectively.

**TABLE 3  
VARIANCE REQUESTS  
(Updated 04-07-10)**

<b>Variance #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	04/01/09	04/16/09	Usage of an empty fenced lot immediately south of SCE's existing Maraschino Substation, Beaumont, Riverside County, as a laydown yard to support Project construction.
#2	10/01/09	10/09/09	Placement of two watertanks and above ground pipe to feed water needs at he El Casco Substation site.
#3	09/30/09	10/15/09	FOC Temporary Circuitry: Banning and Calimesa Shoo Flies.
#4	09/30/09	10/15/09	Alternate Access to the Banning Substation from John Street.
#5	09/22/09	10/23/09	SCE has asserted within the variance request that several Geo & Hydro Mitigation Measures should not be required for the 115 kV Subtransmission Line Element.
#6	10/23/09	10/27/09	Installation of a Portable Fuel Tank at the El Casco Substation site.
#7	10/27/09	10/29/09	Project Description change from underground to overhead installation for fiber optics circuitry along Colton Avenue in the vicinity of the Mentone Substation.
#8	10/29/09	10/29/09	Removal of five Fremont cottonwood trees that are impacted by the construction of the access road to the El Casco Substation site.
#9	01/11/10	01/12/10	Sunday work on FOC shoo-fly segment during scheduled line outage.
#10	01/14/10	01/19/10	Use of the area east of the Zanja Substation fence line for parking and staging purposes.

**TABLE 4  
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS  
(Updated 04-07-10)**

<b>TEWS #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	04/17/09	04/23/09	Fiber Optic material storage at the pre-existing Zanja Substation, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County
#2	07/20/09		Staging area in a vacant lot north of First Street and west of Highland Springs Road.
#3	02/04/10	02/05/10	Distribution line crew access through an adjacent privately owned field to set equipment on existing poles.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** View of completed terraced slope at El Casco Substation. Note the newly installed V-ditches. The photograph faces southeast.



**Figure 2:** View of completed box culvert outlet near El Casco Substation entrance. The photograph faces southward.



**Figure 3:** View of completed box culvert inlet near El Casco Substation entrance. The photograph faces northward.



**Figure 4:** View of completed chain link fencing along the access road. The photograph faces eastward towards the substation site.



**Figure 5:** View of the nearly completed chain link fencing around the El Casco Substation pad. The photograph faces northeastward.



**Figure 6:** View of completed MEER building foundation at the Zanja Substation. The photograph faces southwestward





**Figure 7:** View of the completed rack and MEER building at the Zanja Substation. The photograph faces northwestward.