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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 18, 2010
Subject: Report 26: April 18 - May 8, 2010

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

CPUC EM Justin Wood was on site April 21st and CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site May 6th, 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

Catrac, the contractor that conducted the terracing and grading for the substation pad and relocation of the access road, has completed all work, except possible future erosion control activity. Most equipment and materials have been removed from the site, with the exception of necessities for future erosion control work. Also, Catrac has delayed removal of the water tower and tank near the entrance until the end of the bird nesting season.

During the subject period, the contractor for the construction of the substation, Professional Construction, Inc., worked on trenching for ground wire placement, preparing trenches for conduit placement, and constructing foundations for structures (see Figure 1). The storage yard south of the site trailers continued to receive materials for the substation construction.

Work at the substation site was limited during the first week of the subject period because of rain on Wednesday, April 21.

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 at the substation has been mostly completed (see Figure 2). Work continued within the substation on the installation of the new electrical components.

MILL CREEK COMMUNICATION SITE

On May 11, 2010, SCE provided a submittal stating that construction of the Mill Creek Microwave Tower as an element of the El Casco System Project has been suspended. The internal SCE review concluded that the originally planned fiber optic circuits connecting to the new El Casco Substation would provide adequate telecommunication infrastructure.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE (FOC) INSTALLATION

During the subject period, periodic cancellations of scheduled activity continued to slow progress. Installation work did occur within the Yucaipa to El Casco Substation segment. Most work was in the area of Calimesa Blvd, Oak Glen Road, Dunlap road, and the northeastern portion of Live Oak Canyon Road.

The Zanja Shoo-fly temporary FOC segment was dismantled during the subject period.

115 kV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT

The NTP request for the 115 kV sub-transmission work was submitted to CPUC by SCE on March 3, 2009. In December 2009, SCE requested to begin construction of Segment 3 while pending submittals and analysis for the other 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 by NRC to SCE 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.

Work was completed on Segment 3 on during the subject period (see Figure 3).

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.

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. The yard was also used as the staging yard for the Segment 3, Sub-transmission Line installation activity.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- Biological and other mitigation monitoring continued to be provided by NRC and Chambers Group, respectively. During the subject period, neither cultural resource nor paleontology monitoring was required. NRC and Chambers monitors were continually present during mobilization/construction at the El Casco Substation. NRC Biological Monitors were present during all construction activity at FOC and Segment 3 of the sub-transmission line sites, and at Zanja substation when required. 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. The Chambers monitor continued to check equipment for leakage.

- Dust control, when necessary, was maintained by water trucks at the El Casco Substation and Zanja Substation work sites.
- Concrete truck wash-out basins have been established as necessary in areas where concrete placement occurs. Concrete placement occurred at El Casco Substation site during the subject period (see Figure 1).
- Security is now on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. Temporary security cameras were also installed near the trailers and storage yard.
- SCE has delayed the removal of the water tower and tank inside the entrance gate until after the current bird nesting season. The equipment is within 500 feet of riparian vegetation. Only normal traffic activity on the access road will be allowed during the season. The removal operation of the tower and tank would likely result in greater noise level.
- NRC Biological Monitors continued noise monitoring adjacent to the San Timoteo Creek riparian area at El Casco Substation and access road sites 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. The results of the monitoring continued to be provided to CPUC on a weekly basis. Peaks of construction noise occasionally reached over 60 decibels, but mostly were well under that level. The loudest noise levels recorded were in the 60s decibel range from San Timoteo Road traffic, and in the 80 to 90s range from nearby train activity.
- Nesting bird activities throughout the project area continued to be discovered and monitored by NRC Biological Monitors. Tables and maps were provided to CPUC on May 1, 2010. They continue to be provided on a bi-weekly basis. Project activities are not creating a significant impact on any of the nesting activity in the project area. One noise monitoring station has been abandoned because of proximity to an active least Bell's vireo nest. This decision was made after consultation with the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) vireo surveyor, Melody Aimer, who is coordinating activities and sharing information with NRC biologists. To date, approximately thirteen least Bell's vireo territories have been confirmed adjacent to the El Casco Substation and access road along San Timoteo Creek riparian belt. At the end of the subject period, a vireo territory was discovered in the eucalyptus grove adjacent to the access road opposite to San Timoteo Creek. The NRC and SAWA biologists are monitoring the site. To date, construction activity appears to have no affect on the birds.
- During the prior reporting period, the CPUC EM discovered that a 2400-foot section of the Banning to Tower M17T2 Segment of the Fiber Optic Cable route was rerouted and installed in a different location than the route submitted to CPUC. A pre-construction biological survey was not conducted for this route change. The rerouted cable was placed on pre-existing distribution poles along public paved roads within Banning City limits. A Biological Monitor was present during construction. It is unlikely that any environmental resources were negatively affected. However, since required CPUC notification and biological pre-construction monitoring did not occur, a Project Memorandum was issued.
- It has been noted that temporary trenches are being dug on the pad at the El Casco Substation site that have the potential to trap animals (see Figure 4). NRC Biological Monitors are inspecting the trenches each morning, using flashlights when necessary, for trapped individuals. In addition, it has been noted that permanent V-ditches that have been constructed on the periphery of the substation site may have the potential for entrapment (see Figure 5). The issue is being investigated further by SCE.
- Fiber-Optic Cable construction was alerted that there is an active red-tailed hawk nest proximate to the route along Live Oak Canyon Road. They were advised to delay construction near three poles until the young have fledged and left the nest. NRC Biological Monitors monitored the site.

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 05-18-10)

Type	Date Issued	Description
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.
PM #5	04/16/10	Installation of a Section of Fiber Optic Cable without CPUC Notification of Route Change or Prior Biological Survey

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 05-18-10)

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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 ¹	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement.
N/A	06/19/09	Under Review ¹	Mill Creek Communication Site – requested work suspended.

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 05-18-10)

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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 05-18-10)

TEWS #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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: Work at the El Casco Substation site continued with trenching for ground wire placement, preparing trenches for conduit placement, and constructing foundations for structures. The photograph faces northeastward.



Figure 2: Construction activity at the Zanja Substation has been mostly completed. Work continued within the substation on the installation of the new electrical components. The photograph faces northwestward.



Figure 3: Installation of Segment 3 of the 115 kV sub-transmission line within the Sun Lakes development in Banning has been completed.



Figure 4: Temporary trenches were being dug on the pad at the El Casco Substation site for the copper grounding wire grid. These trenches have the potential to trap animals. NRC Biological Monitors inspected the trenches each morning, using flashlights when necessary, for trapped individuals. The photograph faces northeastward.



Figure 5: Permanent V-ditches that have been constructed on the periphery of the El Casco Substation site may have the potential for entrapment. The issue is being investigated further by SCE. The photograph was taken between the office trailers and the substation pad, and faces southward.