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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** July 2, 2010  
**Subject:** Report 30: June 20 – June 27, 2010

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS (EM):** Lynn Stafford, Allison Roth

CPUC EM Allison Roth was on site June 24.

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
- 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**

During the subject period, the contractor for the construction of the substation, Professional Construction, Inc., continued preparing trenches for conduit placement, constructing foundations for structures, and placing the grounding grid system (see Figure 1). Also, construction of steel structures for the 220 kV portion continued (see Figure 2). Construction of the 220/115 kV MEER and construction of the foundation for the 12 kV MEER also continued during the subject period.

During the subject period, work continued on the perimeter wall.

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

**BANNING SUBSTATION**

Work continued during the subject period, with the beginning of electrical testing within the MEER. All work occurred within the perimeter fence of the existing substation.

**ZANJA SUBSTATION**

Construction activity at the substation has been mostly completed; some additional welding of the cross-arms needs to take place before the new electrical system can be energized. The vegetation surrounding



the substation will be watered prior to the welding activity, and an environmental monitor will be on-site during that work. After that event, the temporary mobile transformer will be removed.

The staging area has been demobilized. It will be hydro-mulched for erosion control in a few weeks. Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix will be applied to the staging area at the beginning of the next wet season.

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

Fiber Optic Cable work continued during the subject period. Crews added a cross-arm to select poles, dead-ended lines and installed wind dampeners in addition to cable-pulling, cleaning up and rope-pulling. Work occurred on the north side of San Timoteo Canyon Road westward to Live Oak Canyon Road (see Figure 3). Coastal Traffic Systems provided traffic control services.

### **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. On January 5, 2010, NTP #7 was issued 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. Work has been completed on Segment 3.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold pending review of the final design of Segment 1, 2 and 4. Maps of the new pole locations have been prepared by SCE and have been distributed to CPUC/Aspen personnel for review. A site visit is scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup>. Biological surveys for Segments 5–8 are underway, for which the results will be incorporated into an NTP 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.

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 and periodically at Zanja Substation. Two NRC Biological Monitors were present at El Substation because of the large area and the numbers of tasks involved; including, but not limited to, noise monitoring, nest monitoring, and checking of holes, trenches and V-ditches for animal entrapment. 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. In general, the El Casco Substation was well-watered and dust free.
- A concrete truck wash-out basin has been established and is in use at the El Casco Substation site.
- Security is on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. Additionally, cones block entrance to the site, because visitors were not stopping at the

guard station to identify themselves. Temporary security cameras have also been installed in the construction area, 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 noise 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 noise monitoring continued to be provided to CPUC on a weekly basis. The loudest noise levels recorded were in the upper 50s decibel range from San Timoteo Road traffic. 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, who is coordinating with and sharing information with NRC Biologist Monitors.
- Nesting bird activities throughout the project area continued to be discovered and monitored by NRC Biological Monitors. Least Bell's vireo nesting activities was monitored by the SAWA biologist, who shared the information with NRC. The most recent table and maps were provided to CPUC on June 15, 2010. They continue to be provided on a bi-weekly basis. 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. House finches continued to attempt nesting in Project structures, particularly at Zanja and El Casco Substations. Biologists continued to remove new nests before eggs could be laid.
- The SAWA biologist noted grading activity on a restricted access road on Friday, June 18 near the El Casco Substation. The CPUC EMs were notified on Monday, June 21. The access road parallels the San Timoteo Creek riparian belt and least Bell's vireo habitat/territories. The grading had been done sometime in the previous week by SCE Operations and Maintenance crews for fire safety purposes. The grading activity was conducted in the road exclusively; no riparian vegetation was affected. (see Figures 4 and 5) . SCE Operations and Maintenance will not enter the access road again until after nesting season.
- Temporary trenches and holes continue to be dug on the pad at the El Casco Substation site. These have the potential to trap animals. 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. The issue with the V-ditches is being investigated further by SCE. The majority of the animals that have been trapped are tree frogs and western toads during cold weather, and meadow mice and rattlesnakes at other times. No special status species have been affected. Some of the V-ditches have been covered with plywood at intervals to provide cover for trapped animals.
- The lower pad at the El Casco Substation site is in the process of being prepared for the construction of three towers providing upcoming power to the station. The pad is adjacent to least Bell's vireo habitat along San Timoteo Creek. It has been arranged that construction of the foundations will be permitted during the remainder of the nesting season. The tower foundation which will be the greatest distance from the Creek will be constructed first. The other two foundations will be built later, probably after July 15. However, tower construction will not occur until after the nesting season. The pad is surrounded by sound wall. The sound monitoring will be conducted for foundation construction activities.

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 07-02-10)

<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.
PM #5	04/16/10	Installation of a Section of Fiber Optic Cable without CPUC Notification of Route Change or Prior Biological Survey
Incident	06/21/10	SCE O&M grading on restricted 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 07-02-10)

<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.
N/A	06/19/09	N/A	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.

During the subject period, Variance Request #11 was approved by the CPUC for Sunday work on the FOC installation across Interstate 10.

**TABLE 3  
VARIANCE REQUESTS  
(Updated 07-01-10)**

<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.
#11	06/24/10	06/25/10	Sunday work on the FOC installation across Interstate 10 during minimum freeway traffic hours.

**TABLE 4  
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS  
(Updated 07-01-10)**

<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:** At the El Casco Substation site, crews poured concrete into a trench for the grounding grid system. This photograph was taken facing north.



**Figure 2:** At the El Casco Substation, crews continued to work on the 220 kV switchrack structures. This photograph is taken facing east.



**Figure 3:** Fiber optic cable work along San Timoteo Canyon Road. This photograph is taken facing west.



**Figure 4:** Grading activity along access road near El Casco Substation. San Timoteo Creek is to the left of the access road. This photograph is taken facing southeast.



**Figure 5:** Grading activity along access road. Known least Bell's vireo territory is on the left. This photograph is taken facing southeast.