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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 21, 2010
Subject: Report 41: December 5, 2010 – December 18, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Allison Roth

CPUC EM, Allison Roth, was on site December 9th.

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, work on the substation pad was limited. Crews continued the testing of electrical equipment and the paving of the main substation access road.

The 220 kV switchyard will be complete and energized by the end of December 2010. In anticipation of energization, appropriate security measures will be enacted, including the completion of the perimeter wall surrounding the substation.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) work continued. Herman-Weissker, the HDD contractor, finished pulling conduit through each of the three bore casings, as well as trench work to vaults on San Timoteo Canyon Road (see Figure 1). Additionally, the water stored in Baker tanks was released into San Timoteo Creek (see Figure 2).

BANNING SUBSTATION

Work has been completed at the Banning Substation.

ZANJA SUBSTATION

Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix was applied on September 17th. The hydroseeded area continued to be watered every 3 days, but little to no germination has taken place. A second hydroseed, utilizing the same seed mix and disking of the top soil took place the week of December 6th.



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.

Notice to Proceed #8 for construction of Segments 5 through 8 was issued by CPUC on July 19th. Work on Segment 8 began on October 26th. All pole foundations on Segment 8 are complete but two; crews began setting poles along Segment 8 the week of December 6th. An Addendum for permanent access road extensions to two remaining pole foundations, at pole sites 29 and 36, was approved on December 14th.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold pending review of the final design of Segments 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 was held July 8th and a follow-up meeting was held on August 10th. CPUC has concluded that an SEIR is required, which is currently under preparation.

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, though paleontological monitors were present for some of the HDD work. NRC and Chambers monitors were continually present during mobilization/construction at the El Casco Substation, at the HDD bore site along San Timoteo Canyon Road, and at the subtrans work on Segment 8.
- 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. Additionally, track-out was minimized by continual use of a street sweeper on San Timoteo Canyon Road.
- Fiber rolls were installed on the hillsides at several subtrans pole locations in response to Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issues (see Figure 3).
- 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.
- 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.

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 12-21-10)

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
Incident	06/21/10	SCE O&M grading on restricted access road.
PM #6	8/11/10	Construction activity without a Biological Monitor present within 500 ft. of the riparian corridor, and no noise monitoring.

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 12-21-10)

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
# 6 Mod #1	08/13/10	8/23/10	Replace old lattice tower with lightweight steel pole outside of Zanja Substation.
#7	12/17/09	01/05/10	Segment 3 of 115 kV subtrans element.
N/A	06/19/09	N/A	Mill Creek Communication Site – requested work suspended.
#8	02/26/09	07/19/10	Segments 5-8 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review ¹	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement, Segments 1, 2 & 4.
Addendum	12/06/10	12/14/10	Permanent road extensions to two pole locations along subtrans Segment 8.

1. SEIR under preparation.

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 12-21-10)

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 water tanks and above ground pipe to feed water needs at the 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.
#12	07/22/10	07/23/10	Sunday work on the FOC installation across Highway 60 and Western Knolls Avenue during minimum freeway traffic hours.
#13	08/05/10	08/06/10	Nighttime deliveries of 220/115 kV transformer banks on August 13 th and August 17 th .
#14	09/8/10	09/13/10	Extended work hours to conduct the transfer of 50,000 gallons of oil into the two 220/115 kV transformer banks at ECSP
MOD #14	10/7/10	10/8/10	Extended work hours to conduct the transfer of oil into two additional 220/115 kV transformer banks at ECSP
#15	11/12/10	11/16/10	Extended work hours to conduct telecom splicing work and well pump testing at ECSP

TABLE 4
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS
(Updated 12-21-10)

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: At the El Casco Substation site, HDD crews work on pulling conduit through one of three bore casings.



Figure 2: At the El Casco Substation site, water is released into the creek from Baker tanks.



Figure 3: At the El Casco Substation subtrans site, newly installed fiber rolls at a foundation site.



Figure 4: At the El Casco Substation site, a panoramic view of the substation.