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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 18, 2011
Subject: Report 45: February 20 – March 12, 2011

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Justin Wood

CPUC EM Justin Wood was on site March 3rd & 10th.

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, minimal work occurred on the substation pad with some landscaping work and other miscellaneous tasks within the substation walls continuing. All access roads within and leading to the substation have all been paved. It appears that the v-ditch replacement and wildlife culvert work along the main access road have been completed and crews have removed the silt fencing from the area. The main access road has been painted and traffic is currently using it to access the substation. The perimeter walls of the substation pad have been completed and access is now limited to three points.

The horizontal directional drilling (HDD) has been completed and the temporary work space is going to be seeded in the coming weeks once a seed mix has been selected. The temporary work areas surrounding the substation pad are going to be hydroseeded next week.

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 and the week of December 6th. The hydroseeded had very little success of native seed germination and also experienced some erosion during recent rain events in December. A third application may be needed to reach acceptable cover amounts.



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 and pole installations on Segment 8 have been completed. Work on Segment 7 began during the subject period and crews have worked on foundations from poles 192-207 and 222 (see Figure 1). Poles 205-207 are in an area with a very high water table that has prevented the foundation of these poles to be completed (see Figure 2). Due to Least Bell's vireo in the vicinity of these areas, work on these foundations has been suspended until later in the season. A biological clearance survey for Segment 6 was conducted during the subject period and was field validated by the CPUC EM on March 10th. Work on Segment 6 is expected to begin during the next week.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold for Segments 1, 2 and 4. A biological clearance survey for Segment 1 was conducted during the subject period and was field validated by the CPUC EM on March 3rd. Once remaining pre-construction compliance documentation is submitted for Segment 1, an NTP will be issued by CPUC. Maps of the new Segment 2 and 4 pole locations have been prepared by SCE and CPUC has concluded that an SEIR is required, which is currently under preparation; completion depending on the SCE submittal of a Petition to Modify.

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 along the subtrans work on Segments 6, 7, & 8. In areas where work is limited, monitors have continued to conduct regular visits to ensure compliance.
- Equipment was continually checked for air pollution control compliance. The Chambers monitor continued to check equipment for leakage. Dust and track out are no longer problems since construction of the substation pad is completed.
- Fiber rolls were installed on the hillsides at several subtrans pole locations in response to Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issues.
- 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.

- On March 3rd, the CPUC EM observed riparian vegetation in the vicinity of pole 207 that had been cut prior to the authorization of the work (see Figure 3). The CPUC EM informed SCE and it was determined that survey crews had cut the vegetation; SCE indicated that they would take the proper actions.
- Also on March 3rd, the CPUC EM observed sage scrub within the works limits of pole 205 that appeared to have been cleared after the March 1st deadline indicated in the Western Riverside MSHCP (see Figure 4). SCE was aware of the problem and indicated they would take the proper action to document the problem and prevent it from happening again in the future.

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 03-18-11)

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 03-18-11)

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

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
# 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 03-18-11)

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

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#15	11/12/10	11/16/10	Extended work hours to conduct telecom splicing work and well pump testing at ECSP
#16	02/9/11	02/10/11	Extended work hours to continue work on the v-ditch at ECSP
#17	02/25/11	02/25/11	Sunday work on Segment 7 requested. Variance approved with conditions, SCE chose to stop work and to not proceed with approval.

TABLE 4
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS
(Updated 03-18-11)

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: View of crews installing pole 213 on Segment 7. The photograph faces northwest.



Figure 2: View showing the foundation of pole 207 on Segment 7 after the foundation had been removed and a second installation attempt was made. The photograph faces south.



Figure 2: View of work in the vicinity of pole 207, the trimmed riparian vegetation is immediately to the left of the existing pole. The photograph faces west.



Figure 4: A partial view of the work area around pole 205 on Segment 7, note the cleared sage scrub in the left portion of the photo. The photograph faces northwest.