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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** December 7, 2011  
**Subject:** Report 49: October 8 – December 2, 2011

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Justin Wood**

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.

Work that has occurred on the El Casco System Project over the past two months has been minimal and sporadic which is the reason for a longer period of time between reports. The following compliance and construction activities occurred during the subject period:

**EL CASCO SUBSTATION**

During the subject period, minimal work occurred within the substation walls, but some work did occur in the vicinity of the substation. Crews continued working on the restoration of the temporary work areas including weeding of the hydroseed areas and preparing to install landscape trees. Planting and hydro-seeding are currently on-hold due to problems with the new ground water well pump. Once the pump becomes operational, crews will move forward with the planting and seeding. Crews have also continued to work in the smooth tarplant mitigation site trying to gain control of the non-native species. Crews have been applied herbicide and are continuing to compact the soils to make the site more suitable for smooth tarplant.

During the subject period, some work occurred in the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) temporary work area. Crews made repairs to the vault and re-installed the fencing. This area is still awaiting the application of native seed. The natural area that was damaged by vandals who took an excavator for a “joyride” was repaired during the subject period.

**BANNING SUBSTATION**

Work has been completed at the Banning Substation.



## **ZANJA SUBSTATION**

Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix was applied on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> 2010. The hydroseeded area has had very little success and additional hydroseeding may be necessary in the future.

All other work at the Zanja Substation is complete.

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

The Notice to Proceed (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 19, 2010. Work on Segment 8 began on October 26, 2010. Portions of Segments 8 have been completed, but several poles are awaiting installation. Construction of Segment 7 started on February 21, 2011; however, work on portions of Segment 7 had to stop due to Least Bell's vireo (LBV) in the vicinity of these areas. Some work did continue in other areas of Segments 7 and 8 during the subject period. No schedule has been established for Segment 5.

An NTP for Segment 1 is pending submittal of pre-construction compliance documentation. A biological clearance survey has been completed and validated for Segment 1; however, an NTP has not been issued and therefore work is not authorized to begin. NTPs for Segments 2 and 4 are currently on hold pending completion of an SEIR 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.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

- Biological mitigation monitoring is still being provided by Environmental Intelligence (EI), LLC (formerly Natural Resource Consultants). During the subject period, EI biological monitors were continually present during construction along the sub-transmission line work on Segments 7 and 8, as well as at El Casco Substation during landscaping activities.
- 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 at the El Casco Substation since construction of the substation pad is completed and the roadways have been paved.

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 12-07-11)

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 12-07-11)

<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	08/27/09	Fiber optic cable installation, remaining (see NTP #2).
#4 Mod #1	09/30/09	10/02/09	Tree trimming.
#5	05/08/09	08/27/09	El Casco Substation construction.
#6	06/19/09	12/02/09	Zanja Substation
# 6 Mod #1	08/13/10	08/23/10	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	02/26/10	07/19/10	Segments 5–8 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
Addendum	12/06/10	12/14/10	Permanent road extensions to two pole locations along subtrans Segment 8.
		Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Segment 1 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review <sup>2</sup>	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement, Segments 2 & 4.

1. Pre-construction compliance submittals pending for Segment 1.
2. SEIR under preparation for Segments 2 and 4.

## 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 12-07-11)

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 <sup>th</sup> and August 17 <sup>th</sup> .
#14	09/08/10	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	10/07/10	10/08/10	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
#16	2/9/11	2/10/11	Extended work hours to continue work on the v-ditch at ECSP
#17	2/25/11	2/25/11	Sunday work on segment 7 requested. Variance approved with conditions, SCE chose to stop work and to not proceed with approval.
#18	09/23/11	10/07/11	Four additional extra workspace areas located in Segments 7 and 8.
#19	10/28/11	11/02/11	Nighttime installation of five new tubular steel poles within Segment 8.

**TABLE 4**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 11-18-11)

<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.