



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 8, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #5: August 29, 2004 – September 4, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The grading activities continued and the transmission line contractor started boring in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the subject week. Grading, general site preparation, and foundation boring activities occurred while the CPUC EM was on-site.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on August 31. The pad at the north end of Magnolia Road had been completed and crews had moved to Site 1300 to prepare the site for blasting. The large boulders and bedrock have been drilled for blasting and the blasting plan is under review with SDG&E (see Figure 1).

The grading crewed worked on several sites above the Los Coches substation on August 31. An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site with the grading crew.

The transmission line contractor, PAR, started work during the subject week. A boring crew started excavation of the bore hole for the tower foundation at Site 1400 (see Figure 2). The crew encountered a great deal of cobble in the upper layers of the bore hole.

The CPUC EM visited Site 1160 with representatives from SDG&E and the contractor to review construction challenges posed by the steep side-slope and unstable rocks. The contractor has discussed placing rock from the site into the erosion rills along the access road to the site. SDG&E was informed that the California Department of Fish and Game should be notified before any material are placed in the drainage along the eroding access road to the site.

The Summit laydown area is being used for staging and storage. The area has been fenced with screening material and no environmental compliance issues were noted at the site (see Figure 3).

Environmental Compliance:

A water truck was on-site at the grading locations to address fugitive dust and provide moisture for soil compaction. Temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) were installed around the pad locations.

Both an environmental monitor and paleontologist were on-site for the boring work at Site 1400. No significant environmental compliance issues were noted at the site. The crew took care to minimize fugitive dust despite the fact that the site is on a ridge far from sensitive receptors.

LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The clearing activities continued and grading started in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week.

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on August 31. The work was confined to Site 321 during the site visit.

The clearing crew worked on Site 321 early in the week to prepare for grading activities. The grading crews moved to the site on Tuesday afternoon and started removing the root layer (see Figure 4). Work continued as crews created a transition from the pad to the access road (see Figure 5). Changes to the grade of the access road from maintenance have placed the access road lower than shown on plans. The transition from the pad site to the access road may have to be reviewed by SDG&E engineers.

A staging and storage area is located adjacent to a residential school for children and SDG&E continues to follow up on a request by school staff to not install screening and allow the children to view the construction activity. The staff request is pending Director approval. The sensitive plant resources in the area have been marked with yellow exclusion tape. No project activity has occurred at the site.

Environmental Compliance:

The clearing crew is aware that the access roads need to be watered if fugitive dust is observed leaving the right-of-way. A water truck was on-site at Site 321 to control fugitive dust during the grading activities. An Essex EI was on-site for both the clearing and grading work at Site 321.

The fencing/screening issue at the staging area on Hillsdale Road is still pending. The existing vegetation on the north side of the SDG&E easement creates a natural screen and the property owner on the south side has requested that no temporary fence be installed. SDG&E is working with the adjacent property owners on construction of a more decorative permanent fence and has received letters from the property owners requesting that no temporary fence be installed.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. SDG&E has not requested any additional NTPs at this time.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

SDG&E has submitted Variance Request #3 regarding Mitigation Measure B-4.f.6 that restricts grading and brushing in quino habitat from October 16 to May 31. The variance request is under review.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 09/08/04)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of four storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15.	Under review	

UPCOMING ITEMS: SDG&E will hold weekly meetings on Tuesday mornings to review issues and upcoming events.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 09/08/04)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #1
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #1
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	08/27/04

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Site 1300 cleared and holes drilled to prepared for blasting.



Figure 2 – PAR started boring work for transmission tower foundations at Site 1400.



Figure 3 – Laydown site at Summit being used for material storage.



Figure 4 – Grading work started at Site 321 above Steele Canyon High School. The Essex EI worked with the water truck operator to improve dust control.



Figure 5 – An operator cut a transition from pad to access road at Site 321.