



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Michael Rosauer, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 6, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #9: September 26, 2004 – October 2, 2004  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

Weather was clear throughout the subject week and the winds had only minor impacts on the project.

### **FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The transmission line contractor continued boring and pouring concrete in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted site visits on September 28 and 29. Concrete pouring activities occurred while the CPUC EM was on-site.

Work with the large boulders and bedrock at Tower Site 1300 is currently on hold as additional options are considered for excavation of the foundation. Boulders and bedrock continue to pose challenges to the foundation crews throughout the segment.

The PAR crew at Tower Site 1150 removed the forms following the concrete pour. A boring crew completed the excavation and pour for Tower Site 635B at the same location. A small hand crew was at Tower Site 1170 looking at the pad site while the SDG&E engineers reexamined the steep side-slope issues at Tower Site 1160.

The transmission line contractor, PAR, placed anchor bolts and poured the foundation at Tower Site 1270 during the subject week (see Figure 1). The tower location is immediately adjacent to a carport that may have encroached on the SDG&E easement. An Essex EI was on-site with the PAR crew.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and spoil piles have been covered with plastic sheeting to control fugitive dust. The crews working at Tower Site 1270 attempted to work around the property owner's schedule to minimize disruption. This included avoiding Saturday work during a birthday party.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for the work at Tower Sites 1150 and 1270. No significant environmental compliance issues were noted on the segment.

### **LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on September 28 and 29. A variety of work occurred between Tower Sites 5 and 1031 during the site visit. The grading contractors, Union and DCX, and the transmission contractor, PAR, have crews operating on the segment at this time.

The clearing crew completed work on the segment by finishing at Tower Site 80 during the subject week. The crew worked with hand tools to cut the brush with the help of a backhoe to remove the brush for chipping.

The grading crew at Tower Site 10 worked with several pieces of equipment to prepare the pad and the access road (see Figure 2). The contractor brought in fill from other areas on the project to build up the pad for Tower Site 5/7.

Iron workers worked to build the rebar cages for the foundations at the staging area off Steele Canyon Road (see Figure 3). The boring rigs set up south of Highway 8 at Tower Site 990. The crew encountered hard rock and the drilling proceeded slowly (see Figure 4). The Essex EI worked with the crews to minimize dust and noise for the houses adjacent to the work.

An operator worked at Tower Site 611 to move rocks off the pad and load them onto trucks to be removed from the site (see Figure 5). A water truck worked to reduce fugitive dust during the work with the rocks and watered the road to prevent fugitive dust from impacting the local residences. A small crew completed the retaining wall at Tower Site 932 (see Figure 6). The grade on the access road above the site needs to be re-engineered to account for changes in the grade due to seasonal grading by maintenance crews.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Water trucks were on-site to control fugitive dust during the various construction activities. An Essex EI was on-site for the clearing, grading, and drilling work. The CPUC EM walked the right-of-way and did not observe any environmental compliance issues.

The Essex EI moved at barrel cactus to a location away from the right-of-way after watering periodically prior to excavation.

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:**

On September 27, SDG&E submitted a variance request for the use of 6 temporary extra work areas for the remainder of construction on the segment. A recommendation regarding the variance request was provided to CPUC on October 5.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 10/06/04)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five 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.	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	10/5 – Recommendation to CPUC.	Pending

**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 10/06/04)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date <sup>1</sup>
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #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 #5
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 #5
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 #5
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 #5
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 #5
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #5

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

\*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – The PAR crew at Tower Site 1270 started the concrete pour adjacent to the carport.



**Figure 2** – The grading crew worked to finish the pad at Tower Site 10. The spoil pile below is material imported to build up Tower Site 5/7.





**Figure 3** – Ironworkers built cages at the staging area adjacent to the special-needs school. The cages will be placed in the completed bore holes.



**Figure 4** – The boring crew at Tower 990 encountered dense rock and drilling proceeded slowly. Water is used to keep the drill head cool during boring.



**Figure 5** – The excavator operator at Tower Site 611 moved rock from the pad and loaded it in trucks for removal.



**Figure 6** – The crew at Tower Site 932 completed the retaining wall and installation of the erosion control devices.