



# **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 14, 2004

**Subject:** Weekly Report #10: October 3, 2004 – October 9, 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 CPUC EM conducted site visits on October 6 and 7. The grading contractor removed excess spoils in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the subject week. The spoil hauling activities occurred while the CPUC EM was on-site.

Representatives from SDG&E, the grading contractor, and the transmission line contractor met at Tower Site 1160 to look at engineering changes.

#### **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.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking the spoil hauling activities. 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 October 6 and 7. A variety of work occurred between Tower Sites 40 and 990 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 grading crew finished the pad at Tower Site 232 (see Figure 1) and moved to Tower Site 242. The operator in the excavator worked to move large boulders off the pad to allow for grading (see Figure 2). The boulders and excess spoils were loaded into an off-road dump truck for removal from the site.

A drilling crew worked at Tower Site 925 to remove a load of bad concrete (see Figure 3). The automated concrete mixing system at the batch plant malfunctioned and created a lot without cement that was poured at Tower Site 925. The forms and rebar cage were removed and the gravel/sand mix was augered

from the hole. The crew returned to the bore in progress at Tower Site 925A once the hole was cleaned. The crew encountered an unknown foreign utility in bore hole 925A (see Figure 4). The PVC pipe and wiring were not damaged and are believed to be related to a water system proposed southwest of the tower site.

The other drilling machine stopped the work at Tower Site 990 due to extremely hard bedrock. The excavation will be completed by blasting once a plan is reviewed and approved by SDG&E. The crew at Tower Site 881 stopped shortly after set-up due to the same type of bedrock. That site will also be completed by blasting. Several sites throughout the project are on hold until blasting plans can be developed and implemented.

#### **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 CPUC EM observed two red tail hawks in apparent mating behavior above Tower Site 232 (see Figure 5). The construction activities in the area did not appear to have any impact on the behavior of the hawks.

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. The variance request was approved by the CPUC on October 6, 2004.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 10/14/04)

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.	Completed	10/06/04

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

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

**TABLE 2**  
**TEWS TRACKING**  
(Updated 10/14/04)

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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
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 #2
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 #2

<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 grading crew finished Tower Site 232 and moved down the hill to start Tower Site 242.



**Figure 2** – The operator in the excavator moved boulders off Tower Site 242.



**Figure 3** – The drilling crew moved back from Tower Site 925A to 925 to remove a bad batch of concrete from the hole.



**Figure 4** – A foreign utility was encountered during the drilling at Tower Site 925A. The water is from cooling the drill head and not from the PVC pipe.



**Figure 5** – Two hawks were observed in mating behavior above Tower Site 232.