



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 25, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #12: October 17, 2004 – October 23, 2004  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The project area received several days of heavy rain after a six-year drought. Both the project area and surrounding county experienced significant erosion, sedimentation, and flooding. The rain continued during the CPUC EM site visit.

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

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on October 20 and 21. Due to the heavy rain and saturated right-of-way, only the PAR crew assembling tower sections in the Summit Road yard worked in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the subject week.

A small crew worked at the Summit Road yard assembling sections of the upper portion of the towers. The crews attached the arms to the upper section of the towers to prepare for connection to the lower sections of the towers that have already been erected (see Figure 1).

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Although Temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations, the heavy rains have caused erosion and sediment along the segment. Erosion from Tower Site 1310 flowed off the upper access road and into an adjacent concrete v-ditch (see Figure 2). Erosion off the tower pad itself caused minor deposition of sediment on the lower access road. No evidence of impacts to the adjacent houses was noted during the site visit.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on both segments.

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

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

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on October 20 and 21. Only the drilling crew on Vista Rodeo and the repair crew at Tower Site 842 were working during the site visit.

The drilling crew at Tower Site 842 has been shut down due to damage to the drilling machine from working in the hard material. The contractor was able to arrange access to the site through an adjacent property owner's driveway for the mechanic to start repairs. The access road off La Cresta was not passable due to the rains.

The other drilling machine worked at Vista Rodeo despite the rain due to the proximity to the road and the fact the equipment was in place prior to the rains (see Figure 3). The drilling machine was set up near several houses and the crew is required to be off the road by 7pm. No noise complaints have been received despite the loud drilling due to the hardness of the bedrock. The operation was briefly stopped when the rain grew heavier on October 20. Several sites throughout the project are on hold until blasting plans can be developed and implemented.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM noted that many of the water bars installed by the operations crews were only loosely compacted and ran at grades much steeper than the 5–7 percent slope appropriate for this type of soil. Loose soil was piled at the outlet of many water bars, resulting in the transportation of sediment into the surrounding habitat (see Figure 4). No sediment containment was noted on the outlets of any of the water bars. The water bars on the steep access road to Tower Site 440 were completely washed away, resulting in sediment on the public road and into the adjacent storm drain (see Figure 5). In situations such as at Tower Site 342, the rain run-off down the maintenance/access road was not diverted away from the pad and eroded a section of the crane pad (see Figure 6). At this site and others, the straw wattles either floated or were undercut by the erosion.

The CPUC EM spoke with SDG&E about the BMP concerns following the site visit. SDG&E will be working to address the issues and modify the procedures to avoid future erosion and sedimentation problems.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on both segments. The Essex EI discovered an injured owl while checking exclusion fencing in the yard off Steele Canyon Road. The Essex EI notified the CPUC EM and watched over the injured owl until a wildlife rescue organization could take possession of the bird for rehabilitation. The owl did not have any obvious external injuries or broken bones.

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 October 20, SDG&E submitted a variance request to work one Sunday at Tower Site 925 to complete outage work on the weekend per California ISO requirements. San Diego County has restrictions on Sunday work and SDG&E is in the process of requesting permission from the County to work on Sunday if the work cannot be completed on Saturday, October 30. The CPUC EM will work with SDG&E to obtain the necessary approvals in order to perform the work during the October 30–31 outage approved by the California ISO.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 10/25/04)

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
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Awaiting County approval.	Pending

**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 10/25/04)

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 transmission line contractor worked at the Summit Road yard. Note the lower tower section erected on the upper right of the photograph.



**Figure 2** – Sediment from Tower Site 1310 flowed into an adjacent concrete V-ditch.





**Figure 3** – The drilling crew continued on the foundation at Vista Rodeo during the subject week, stopping only briefly for heavy rainfall.



**Figure 4** – Sediment flowed off the access road into the adjacent coastal sage scrub habitat. Water bars were excessively steep and lacked sediment traps.



**Figure 5** – The water bars at Tower Site 440 were completely washed away and sediment flowed onto the public right-of-way and into the storm drain.



**Figure 6** – The straw waddles at Tower Site 325 were undercut as run-off from the access road flowed over the crane pad and sediment flowed down through the vegetation.