



Aspen *Environmental Group*

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: November 2, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #13: October 24, 2004 – October 30, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The project area received several days of heavy rain during the subject week. 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 26 and 27. Due to the heavy rain and saturated right-of-way, only the PAR crew placing rock at the Willow Road yard worked in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 during the site visit.

A small crew worked at the Willow Road yard placing rock to provide safe passage and control tracking of mud onto the public right-of-way.

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. The access roads above the Los Coches Substation were not passable during the site visit due to the erosion from the recent storms.

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 grading and erosion control activities occurred in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week.

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on October 26 and 27. Several small crews were working throughout the segment during the site visit.

The grading crew worked to remove spoils and rock from Tower Site 80 before additional rain made the access road unsafe for the rubber-tired dump trucks. An operator worked with an excavator to move the soil and rock off the pad site and load it into trucks for removal from the right-of-way (see Figure 1). The access road to the tower locations in the area was rough after the recent storms and is not passable when wet. A crew worked at Tower Site 151 repairing erosion damage from the storms and improving the BMPs (see Figure 2). The rains that started on October 27 halted any additional repair work due to the saturated soils and restricted access. The pads cannot be properly compacted if the water content in the soil is above approximately 13 percent.

Concrete was poured at Vista Rodeo and a worker finished the surface of the foundation by hand (see Figure 3). The arms have been attached to the towers and the upper sections are on-site at Site 925A for the work during the weekend outage approved in Variance Request #6 (see Figure 4).

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM noted that the contractor did not have adequate time between the storms to address many of the SWPPP issues from the previous week. Many of the water bars installed by the operations crews have failed and the access roads are not passable. In some areas, the access roads are both eroded and subject to significant off-site drainage (see Figure 5). 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 6).

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.

The fencing/screening issue between the property owners at the staging area on Hillsdale Road could not be resolved expeditiously and SDG&E elected not to use the staging area.

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. The CPUC approved the variance request on October 26, conditional on San Diego County approval. SDG&E obtained permission from the County to work on Sunday if the work cannot be completed on Saturday, October 30. The County restricted the start of work on Sunday until after 10am.

WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION MEETING:

The CPUC EM attended the Tuesday morning construction meeting. The meeting covered construction progress, safety, the construction schedule, environmental issues, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issues.

Additional drilling machines are expected to arrive on the project this week and early next week to bring the total to five. All of these are auger/core type drilling machines. The blasting contractor has one drilling machine on site to prepare sites for blasting and one additional machine is expected next week. SDG&E hopes the additional equipment will offset the schedule delays from encountering hard rock and heavy rain.

The Essex EI informed the construction personnel that debris from the shipping of tower sections poses visual and safety concerns and has already resulted in one complaint from a property owner on La Cresta. SDG&E will revisit the issue with the shipping companies and the crews working in the various laydown areas.

SDG&E worked with Essex to identify SWPPP issues following from the recent and current storms. The contractor expressed the need for additional materials and crews to address the erosion control and sediment clean-up issues on the project. SDG&E has identified TCM as a contractor to assist with repairs of storm damage. The grading contractor, DCX, will also be available to make repairs to roads impacted by the storms. Representatives from the SDG&E Environmental division stated that there is a 5-year plan in development to address chronic sediment and erosion issues on the access road system on their transmission line network and the damage from the recent storms has illustrated the need for more permanent solutions.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 11/02/04)

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.	Completed	10/26/04

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 11/02/04)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
*	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

¹For 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 contractor returned to Tower Site 80 to remove spoils while the access roads were passable. The straw waddles were installed at too steep an angle.



Figure 2 – A grading crew worked to repair storm damage and improve BMPs at Tower Site 151.



Figure 3 – The drilling crew finished the foundation at Vista Rodeo and a worker finished the foundation surface after the concrete pour.



Figure 4 – The upper sections of the poles at Tower Site 925A are on-site for raising during the weekend outage covered in Variance Request #6.



Figure 5 – Both erosion on the access roads and drainage from the surrounding hillsides made access impossible in some areas.



Figure 6 – 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.