



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** December 30, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #21: December 19, 2004 – December 25, 2004  
**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Christopher Meyer

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

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on December 20 and 21. Compaction and drilling work occurred in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 and NTP #3 during the site visit.

The PAR concrete crew worked on the foundations for the 230 kV towers at Fanita Junction, on Miramar, during the subject week (see Figure 1). Once the concrete has been poured to the top of the form, workers finish the surface of the foundation (see Figure 2). Drilling at Tower Site 601 continued during the CPUC site visit (see Figure 3). A rock shelf is protruding into the hole and has dramatically slowed progress. The drilling crew has reached depth with the pilot hole, but the rock shelf has slowed the reaming of the hole to the engineered width. The crews are looking for ways to expedite the work to meet the January 5 deadline for work on the Marine Air Station at Miramar.

For the, 138/69 kV tower installation, stringing cannot proceed until the upper section of several towers are placed and the foundations at several locations cure for at least 30 days. The PAR transmission line crew worked on both placing tower bases and preparing upper sections; however, no work was observed by the CPUC EM.

The Low Drill drilling machine was at Tower Site 1160 during the site visit. The contractor continues reviewing plans to change the drilling method at the site due to safety concerns related to blasting.

A crew worked at Tower Site 1210 where the foundation needs to be removed due to inclusions during the pour. The crew continued working to backfill the excavation in lifts to preserve compaction (see Figure 4). The moisture in the soil caused problems with compaction as water pumped from lower lifts. The contractor placed fabric and rock to address the pumping concerns and continued placing lifts of soil. A small water line serving the residence was damaged and the crew worked to restore service to the house (see Figure 5).

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms. The access roads on this segment were not impacted by erosion to the same extent as the roads on the Los Coches to Miguel Substation Segment.

The fugitive dust issue on the right-of-way at Fanita Junction has been corrected. The spoil piles and access roads have been watered and the plastic covering on the spoil piles have been replaced. Some of the rice waddles placed around the pad site are nearly vertical on the slope and do not conform to the design of the BMP. Silt fencing was placed at Tower Site 621 to address rocks rolling down the slope (see Figure 6).

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the segment. The paleontological monitor was on-site to monitor the excavation on the Marine Air Station at Miramar during the subject week. No fossils or fossil bearing soils were noted during the week.

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

### **Summary of Activity:**

No construction activities were observed in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted site visits on December 20 and 21.

The CPUC EM met with the SDG&E Project Manager and transmission engineer to review site conditions at Tower Site 481 on December 7. The field visit was in response to the letter from local residents received by the CPUC Project Manager with complaints about pole location. The CPUC EM verified that the location where the pad grading and foundation drilling have been completed match the location in the project documents (Figures 2-2 and 4-10 in the Environmental Impact Report). No additional information has been received on this issue.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM noted that the contractor has used the time between the storms to address many of the SWPPP issues from the previous weeks. Several water bars have been added to the segment to protect the pads from erosion due to storm water flowing down the existing access roads.

SDG&E is looking at ways to stabilize the cut slopes that are partially rock. These slopes are a mix of topsoil and bedrock and cannot be easily stabilized by matting.

### **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. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20.

### **VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests were received during the subject week.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 12/30/04)

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 12/30/04)

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 PAR concrete crew worked on pouring one of the foundations covered under NTP #3, on Miramar, during the subject week.



**Figure 2** – The PAR concrete crew finished the surface of the foundation on Miramar.





**Figure 3** – The drilling activities continued at Tower Site 601. Crews worked to complete the work prior to the January 5 deadline for work on Miramar. Note that the spoil piles have been recovered and the roads watered.



**Figure 4** – The contractor continued work on compaction at Tower Site 1210 after the foundation was exposed for inspection. The current foundation will be removed below grade and the entire operation repeated.





**Figure 5** – The crew at Tower Site 1210 worked to restore water service to the residence adjacent to the excavation.



**Figure 6** – Silt fencing backed by steel T-posts was used at Tower Site 621 to control rocks and other spoils during drilling.