Aspen
Environmental Group

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: April 6, 2005

Subject: Weekly Reports #35: March 27, 2004 – April 2, 2005

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO MIGUEL 138/69 KV ACTIVITIES, NTP #1 AND #2

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 30 and 31 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Transmission line work was observed during the site visit. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 included the following:

1. The SDG&E transmission line crew used a helicopter to fly in sock line between Fanita Junction and Highway 52, and initiated their conductor pull during the subject week. This crew also experienced a line drop due to mechanical failure of a reel truck. Inspection of the area where the line dropped will be accomplished next week after the lines have been secured and it is safe to walk beneath them. The CPUC EM reminded SDG&E that explosive ordinance detail crews having been working in the area to remove old ordinance from target practice.

2. PAR pulled conductor south of Interstate 8, from Pole Site 961 to Pole Site 881, during the subject week (see Figure 1). The crew also worked to prepare for the pull across Interstate 8 that will occur on Sunday, April 3 under Variance Request #14.

3. The Magco drilling crew working near the Miguel Substation was relocated to Pole Site 65-10 during the subject week. The crew will have to coordinate with planned outages to work in this area due to overhead lines. The drilling at this site will continue into next week. The crew with the Texoma drilling machine started at Pole Site 65-40 during the end of the subject week, leaving only one foundation where drilling has not commenced.

4. A PAR crew worked to set the rebar cage and anchor bolts at Pole Site 181 during the site visit (see Figure 2). The crew completed the preparations at Pole Sites 100, 162, 172, 181 and 191 so that the concrete foundations could be poured during the subject week. The extensive road work and rock placed on the access road to the sites has made travel to these remote areas possible for light vehicles after rains; however larger vehicles still damage the road and limit access. PAR used the newly purchased 6-wheel drive to pour the more remote locations and the normal concrete trucks were used for the remainder of the foundations.

5. Concrete trucks filled with slurry mix were moved up to Pole Site 132 to fill the collapsed area around the foundation site to allow for drilling (see Figure 3). The partially completed excavation was severely degraded by storm water runoff during the heavy storms and the area needed to be stabilized prior to resuming the drilling operation. The slurry and a corrugated pipe section were used to stabilize the area to allow for Anderson Drilling to return to the site and excavate the foundation. Access to the site was coordinated due to the narrow road and difficulty passing vehicles in the opposite direction. Despite the attempts by the contractor to coordinate traffic on the access road, a newly mo-

bilized PAR crew moving an excavator up the road, left the approved right-of-way to allow downhill traffic to pass. The environmental impact of this action is discussed below in the Environmental Compliance section.

6. The drilling operation and foundation pouring was completed for the wet hole at Pole Site 1210 on March 22. The entire operation was completed in one day to prevent loss of the hole due to the high water table. The concrete pouring operation continued after 7:00 p.m. under Variance Request #8. The first two attempts at the site were not successful, one due to a failed test on the foundation and the second due to a collapsed hole prior to pouring any concrete. The crew at Pole Site 1210 worked on pressure grouting the annular spaces around the foundation during the site visit (see Figure 4). The wet spoils at the site were covered with plastic to prevent sediment travel in the event of predicted rains. Spilled and overflowing grout from the operation was spreading outside the work area into the adjacent grass (see Figure 5). This material will need to be removed from the site or stabilized prior to any rain events.

Environmental Compliance:

1. The PAR crew moving an excavator up the access road to Pole Site 132 moved off the clearly marked road to allow downhill traffic to pass, impacting undisturbed vegetation. The crew received environmental training within the previous five days and the access road was clearly marked with "Sensitive Resource Area, Stay on Access Road" signs. The Essex biologist on-site checked the impact and determined that the vegetation impacted was a mix of non-native grasses and ruderal vegetation. No coastal sage scrub habitat was lost and no impact to Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat was noted. A Project Memorandum will be issued to address this incident and other off right-of-way incidents. SDG&E has notified the CPUC EM of each off right-of-way incident.

2. A minor oil leak from trucks working in the Sweetwater area was being addressed by the Essex EI and SDG&E staff.

3. 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. However, as noted within, access to some locations is still difficult.

4. The road to Fanita Junction needed repair before work could continue. The access road was covered with mud and grading would just force the mud off the approved access road. The CPUC EM previously reminded SDG&E that the mud from the access road could not be pushed outside the footprint of the existing access road. However, as previously reported, some mud has been pushed from the road during recent grading activities and will have to be addressed prior to any rains. This mud is still on site, but has been covered with plastic to prevent sediment transport.

5. An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project. Biologists worked to survey gnatcatcher areas prior to construction. Some surveys have been delayed due to weather conditions. The construction crews were reminded by Essex that surveys need to be conducted prior to work in many areas. Although some brushing activities may to be completed after the March 1 deadline under Variance Request #10, the cut vegetation should be moved away from the contiguous habitat immediately and under the supervision of an EI.

MISSION TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION 230 KV ACTIVITIES, NTPS #3 AND #4

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 30 and 31 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent and temporary 230 kV systems.

PERMANENT 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #3 was issued to address 230 kV work on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar prior to the NTP for all 230 kV work to address the expiration of a permit with the Navy. NTP #4 addressed the permanent upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations. The following were the main construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. The Wilson transmission line crew prepared the poles for the conductor and then used a helicopter to pull the sock line from Fanita Junction to Tower 576654 (see Figure 6). The line dropped due to a problem with the reel truck and the operation was suspended. The line dropped onto the guard structures and into coastal sage scrub habitat. All other equipment and work activities were within the area previously disturbed by the 138 kV and 230 kV construction crews. Wilson crews also installed steel poles 593, 594, and 595 during the subject week.

2. The Wilson drilling subcontractor, Tri-State Drilling, is close to completing drilling and pouring the foundation at Pole Site 588, and blasting and drilling the for the foundations at Pole Sites 587 and 586. The micro-pile subcontractor, Crux, completed work on the micro-pile foundation at Pole Site 589.

TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Other than clearing of vegetation prior to March 1, the temporary 230 kV work between Miguel to Los Coches Substations is awaiting the completion of work on the 138 kV system by PAR. Once PAR has finished work on the segment, the Wilson Construction crews will start the upgrades to the existing towers. The installation of the temporary wood poles started during the week of March 7. The crews have placed additional wood poles above the Los Coches Substation since then; however, no work on the temporary 230 kV installation was observed during the site visit

Environmental Compliance:

1. 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.

2. An Essex EI has been working closely with the Wilson crews to perform any necessary training and arrange for any required biological surveys.

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:

SDG&E submitted Variance Request #13 on March 28 to allow work on Cesar Chavez day; however, the variance was not required since the day is not recognized as a State or Federal holiday. SDG&E submitted Variance Request #14 on March 29 to allow transmission line work on Sunday April 3 and Sunday, April 10 across Interstate 8. Variance Request #14 was approved by CPUC on March 30.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 04/06/05)

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
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05
9	02/16/05	Perform construction activities on Sunday, February 20 at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 on the project during the 2004/2005 nesting season.	Completed	3/22/05
11	03/14/05	Work after 7pm at Pole 411 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	03/16/05
12	03/14/05	Work on Sunday, March 20 to string cable at eight towers to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule. Modification added for line work north of Los Coches Substation.	Completed	03/17/05
13	03/28/05	Work on Cesar Chavez holiday, Thursday March 31.	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 to string cable to comply with Caltrans/ Highway Patrol lane closure requirements.	Completed	3/30/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 04/06/05)

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
7	Los Coches to Miguel	02/11/05	Southwest of Pence Road, San Diego County	Approved from 02/16 to 04/16	02/16/05
8	Los Coches to Miguel	03/11/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/16 to 05/16	03/16/05
9	Mission to Fanita	03/18/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/21 to 05/21	03/21/05
10	Los Coches to Miguel	03/29/05	PAR staging and show-up yard on Jamacha Road.	Approved from 03/29 to 05/29	03/29/05

[1]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 – An SDG&E transmission line crew pulled conductor south of Interstate 8.

Figure 2 – PAR worked at Pole Site 181 to set the rebar cage and anchor bolts in preparation for pouring concrete.

Figure 3 – Trucks delivered grout up the narrow access road to Pole Site 132 to stabilize the collapsed hole for drilling.

Figure 4 – Specialized equipment was used to pressure grout the annular spaces around the foundation at Pole Site 1210.

Figure 5 – Grout from the pressure grouting operation spread into the adjacent grasses on the property at Pole Site 1210.

Figure 6 – Wilson crews worked at Fanita Junction to prepare for the pulling of conductor.