



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 13, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #36: April 3 – April 9, 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 April 6 and April 7 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Various types of construction activity were 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. No transmission line work was observed by the CPUC EM during the site visit. Much of the focus was on repairing equipment and preparing for an upcoming pull. The reel truck was set up at Hillsdale Drive, but no activity was observed at this location.
2. The PAR crew worked to set the two sections of the steel pole at Site 181 during the site visit (see Figure 1). The upper section was prepared on the ground and then raised into position.
3. The Magco drilling crew near the Miguel Substation continued work at Pole Site 65-10 during the subject week. The excavation was within a foot of the final depth at the time of the site visit and the concrete form crew was preparing the forms for the site (see Figure 2). The Essex EI was on-site watching for any sensitive birds in the adjacent coastal sage scrub habitat. No California gnatcatchers were observed foraging in the area during the site visit; however, raptors are often observed in the area (see Figure 3). The foundation has been poured at Pole Site 65-40 and the area stabilized.
4. The Woodward crew continued drilling in the hard rock at Pole Site 30 during the subject week (see Figure 4). The crew used a rock-hammer to assist in breaking up the material in between drilling. This foundation is the final 138 kV excavation and the drilling contractors have started to demobilize from the project.
5. A PAR grading crew worked with the Testing Engineers inspector to expand work pads for the transmission line crew stringing work. Work was observed at Pole Site 161 where the crew repaired damage from the drilling and foundation pouring activities and pulled loose material from the slopes under the pad site (see Figure 5).
6. Clean-up activity was observed at Pole Site 1210 during the CPUC EM site visit. The crew worked to remove grout from the operation that had spread outside the work area into the adjacent grass. The dry conditions of the access road and work area combined with the fine nature of the soil lead to fugitive dust leaving the right-of-way.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project are now starting to get new vegetation (see Figure 6). Depending on the schedule for restoration of the rest of the disturbed sites, revegetation may have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to the dry, hot summer.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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. The construction crews were reminded by Essex that surveys need to be conducted prior to work in many areas. In addition, 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 April 6 and April 7 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. Wilson Construction crews installed Steel Pole Z201917 during the subject week and completed modification of the adjacent lattice tower. The crew completed pulling activities between Fanita Junction and Oak Creek occurred, but this was not observed by the CPUC EM.
2. The Wilson drilling subcontractor, Tri-State Drilling, has completed work on the remaining foundations for the 230 kV work and is demobilizing from the project.

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. 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:

No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 04/13/05)

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 04/13/05)

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

*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

Photographs



Figure 1 – PAR worked to raise the steel pole sections at Pole Site 181.



Figure 2 – The Magco drilling crew worked to finish the foundation at Pole Site 65-10.



Figure 3 – Raptors are routinely observed in the Miguel Substation area.



Figure 4 – The Woodward drilling crew worked at Pole Site 30 to complete the final 138 kV foundation excavation on the project.



Figure 5 – The PAR grading crew worked with the Testing Engineers inspector at Pole Site 161 to repair the pad.



Figure 6 – Areas that were restored prior to the heavy rains and recent sunshine have started to revegetate.