



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** May 24, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #42: May 15 – May 21, 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 May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. The construction of the foundations for the 138 kV portion of the project has been completed and the civil construction crews have demobilized from the project. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 included the following:

1. PAR crews worked on stringing and associated activities for the bundled 230 kV and 138 kV conductor during the subject week. These activities are described in the 230 kV section below.
2. The steel pole at Site 1210 was moved to the new foundation during a planned outage (see Figure 1). The old foundation was not sound due to a cave in before the concrete had set and will be removed to several feet underground.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project are now starting to get new vegetation. SDG&E has determined that revegetation of remaining sites will have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to 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.
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. SDG&E informed the CPUC EM that the site has been recontoured and seeded. The CPUC EM will review the area as soon as access is feasible.
4. An Essex 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 be completed after the March 1<sup>st</sup> 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 May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> to review construction progress and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent and temporary 230 kV systems. Only limited construction activities were observed during the site visit as work is gradually being completed.

### 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 permanent 230 kV construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. Wilson crews worked with man-lifts between the Los Coches Substation and Pole Site 1150, installing jumpers on the new poles (see Figure 2). The jumpers connect the conductor runs around the insulators at each pole. The Essex EI has marked the nesting bird areas with caution tape, fencing, and signs.
2. The CPUC EM was contacted by the Essex EI on emergency access between poles 1150 and 1160 to allow SDG&E and Wilson to inspect a damaged section of conductor. The CPUC EM met in the field and approved temporary access into the disturbed ruderal vegetation to park a man-lift for the inspection (see Figure 3). The SDG&E engineer inspected the damage to the conductor, determining that it was minor, and could be fixed in-place by the Wilson crew. The equipment was removed from the vegetation promptly and the entire operation was completed in under an hour. A crane truck was parked on El Monte Road as a temporary guard structure for the distribution line until the extent of damage to the conductor could be determined (see Figure 4).
3. Wilson crews worked at dead-ending sections of conductor (see Figure 5). Cables are run from the last tower or pole to the ground to take up the strain of the conductor weight. Once the next section is strung, the cables are no longer necessary. The 230 kV conductor has been strung to the tower above the Los Coches Substation and will be strung across Lake Jennings Road the following week.

### TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Although the steel 138 kV poles currently being installed by PAR between Los Coches and the Miguel Substation will be permanent, the 230 kV conductor is being strung temporarily to facilitate the early energization of the line. Temporary wood poles had also been previously installed. The following were the main temporary 230 kV construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. A PAR stringing crew worked to dead-end sections of conductor in the Sweetwater area during the site visit (see Figure 6). The work was conducted under the supervision of the Essex EI and a permitted gnatcatcher biologist. The work area was restricted to the area cleared of coastal sage scrub outside the gnatcatcher breeding season. No disturbance to the local gnatcatchers was observed during the work.

**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 and PAR crews to perform any necessary training and arrange for any required biological surveys. The Essex EI has marked the nesting bird areas above Los Coches Substation with caution tape, fencing, and signs.

**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<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup>.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Variance Request #19 was submitted asking for a waiver from the 30-day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line under Mitigation Measure PS-2a. This request is currently under review.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 05/24/05)

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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> .	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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> .	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, April 10 <sup>h</sup> to string cable to comply with Caltrans/ Highway Patrol lane closure requirements.	Completed	3/30/05
15	04/15/05	Programmatic variance to work on outside the approved construction schedule with prior approval from the CPUC EM.	Completed	4/19/05
16	5/05/05	Work on Sunday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/05/05
17	5/09/05	Parking of a crane truck in the vegetation approximately 500 feet southwest of Pole Site 10.	Completed	5/10/05
18	05/11/05	Work on Sunday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/12/05
19	05/20/05	Waiver from the 30 day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line as required by Mitigation Measure PS-2a.	Under Review	

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

**TABLE 2**  
**TEWS TRACKING**  
 (Updated 05/24/05)

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
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
11	Los Coches to Miguel	04/29/05	Placement of two cranes to create a guard structure south of Hwy. 94.	Approved from 04/29 to 06/29	04/29/05

<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 steel pole was relocated to the new foundation during a planned outage at Pole Site 1210. The bad foundation is in the foreground.



**Figure 2** – The Wilson stringing crew installing jumpers above the Los Coches Substation.



**Figure 3** – Wilson and SDG&E inspecting the damaged conductor off El Monte Road.



**Figure 4** – Temporary protection of the distribution line on El Monte Road during inspection of the damaged conductor.



**Figure 5** – End of the permanent 230 kV conductor above the Los Coches Substation.





**Figure 6** – PAR stringing crew working on the temporary 230 kV system above the Miguel Substation.