



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 6, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #65: November 27 – December 3, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

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

Summary of Activity:

The 138 kV work on the segment has been completed and the PAR crews have demobilized from the project. Clean up and final restoration, including Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) issues, will continue in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Several sites that were restored earlier in the project have revegetated. SDG&E determined that revegetation of remaining sites would have to wait until the next growing season for the plants to get established prior to summer. Plans are underway to plant prior to the onset of the winter rains and some sites have been hand-seeded by the Essex EI. SDG&E has secured a contractor to complete the reseeding and work is scheduled to start the week of December 12th. Crews will work next week on preparing several sites for the reseeding. The preparation will generally include the removal of any excess material or spoils and the decompaction of the sites.

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

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 29th and 30th to review the construction and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent 230 kV system and the activities related to the Otay Mesa Power Purchase Agreement Project (OMPPA) that are covered under NTP #4 of the Miguel-Mission 230 kV #2 Project. No site visit was conducted during the short Thanksgiving holiday week (November 20th – November 26th) due to limited activity on 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. The temporary 230 kV system has been completed and the temporary line was energized on June 1st.

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. Construction of the

permanent 230 kV system was delayed due to ISO restrictions on line outages and restarted on July 18th. Work observed during the site visit, included the following:

1. After taking the week of Thanksgiving off, Wilson returned to the project on November 28th and strung the final conductor between Tower 21 and Tower 25. A crew continued work at the stringing site east of La Cresta. This crew spliced the conductor to the conductor from the previous stringing run once the conductor had been held under tension for the prescribed time. Once the splice was completed, the conductor was raised at the La Cresta stringing site and the proper sag was obtained on the section. The work was restricted to the previously disturbed areas and an SDG&E/Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site during the operation. The west end of the sagging operation remained off Camino Monte Sombra with a Caterpillar bulldozer to hold the conductor under tension prior to the sagging operation (see Figure 1). The crew at the west end needed to extend the pad for the Caterpillar bulldozer and remove a section of silt fencing during the previous site visit. This expansion was within the approved area of disturbance and did not involve the removal of any vegetation. The silt fencing has been replaced and the fiber rolls below the work area have been augmented and secured to the ground (see Figure 2).
2. During the stringing of the last conductor on this segment on Monday, November 28th, a section of the conductor near Tower 25 touched the ground and was damaged. This approximately 1400-foot section of conductor needed to be removed and an undamaged section of conductor strung in its place. The contractor attempted to lay the damaged conductor along the road; however, due to the curve of the road and the weight of the conductor, it moved into the vegetation (see Figure 3). The Essex EI was not informed until after the incident. SDG&E notified the CPUC EM on December 28th.
3. A clearing crew worked to clear the vegetation from the edges of the approved work area at the Herrick Center (see Figure 4). This crew worked on the project previously, but the Essex EI provided a refresher on the environmental training. The union rules require a gravel show up area for the workers to park personal vehicles. In order to address this issue, Wilson proposes placing gravel in the area south of the Herrick Center, adjacent to the ambrosia populations. SDG&E has been informed that only temporary impacts were address for this location in the EIR and no permanent improvements are permitted. If the gravel is placed in this location, the gravel will need to be placed in such a manner that it can be completely removed prior to restoration of the project in this area. The area of impact has increased with the laydown of construction material and equipment beyond the original dirt area adjacent to the center's parking area. Any areas outside the original dirt overflow parking area will need to be decompacted and allowed to return to their original state as part of the restoration for the project.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SDG&E has been maintaining BMPs on the tower pads and dirt tracked onto public streets is cleaned up at the end of each day.
2. The off right-of-way incident with the conductor on Monday, November 28th was discussed in length during the weekly construction meeting on November 29th. Although the area impacted was CSS habitat severely degraded by fire several years ago, the area is recovering and is still protected. The conductor was cut into manageable sections and removed from the road by hand. The additional section in the habitat will be removed with the Essex EI on-site. SDG&E reminded the contractor that all work must remain in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) approved in the EIR and that the Essex EI and SDG&E need to be informed if any impacts are anticipated. In reviewing the impacts, the CPUC EM noted minor impacts to vegetation from the conductor and a small area of disturbance where the Caterpillar bulldozer left the access road. This report will serve as a written warning to keep project activities on the right-of-way and further incidents could result in the issuance of a Project Memorandum or Project Non-Compliance.

3. SDG&E brought on a special crew to place, maintain, and improve BMPs on the project to prepare for the official start of the rainy season and to maintain BMPs now that it has started. The CPUC EM reviewed BMPs on the right-of-way and noted that most pads are ready for winter rains. The CPUC EM informed SDG&E that the installation of fiber rolls with thick wooden stakes breaks the nylon mesh that holds the roll together and allows the roll to float when hit with flowing water. Many of the fiber rolls from the previous winter show signs of water passing under the rolls (erosion under the rolls). A properly installed fiber roll will stay firmly attached to the ground and any failure will occur with materials flowing over the roll. It should not be possible to lift the fiber roll at any point along the run if properly installed. If chronic failure of properly installed fiber rolls is observed, another BMP may be more appropriate. During the follow-up inspection of BMPs, the CPUC EM noted that the fiber rolls in those locations visited have been secured to the ground (see Figure 5). In addition, sand bags have been used to augment the fiber rolls where needed. The Testing Engineers inspector has prepared a punch-list with BMP issues that still need to be addressed. Many of the access roads maintained by SDG&E crews not related to the project were graded dry and have been subsequently compacted to minimize erosion during use by the project.

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 16th. 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 20th. On September 2nd, CPUC issued NTP #4 – Revised reflecting the inclusion of the Otay Mesa Power Purchase Agreement (OMPPA) Project and use of certain variance requests during construction where the OMPPA Project parallels the Miguel-Mission Project from the Miguel Substation to Fanita Junction.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week. Table 1 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 12/06/05)

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 st 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 th .	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 st 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 th 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 th at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 st 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 th 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 st .	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 rd and Sunday, April 10 th 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 th 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 th to catch up on transmission line work..	Completed	5/12/05
19	05/20/05 MOD- 5/27/05	Waiver from the 30-day noticing period prior to energizing the temporary 230 kV line as required by Mitigation Measure PS-2a.	Request Rescinded 6/8/05	N/A
20	05/26/05	Work on Sunday, May 29 th to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	5/31/05
21	09/08/05	Work on Sunday, September 18 th to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	09/15/05
22	10/04/05	Four stringing sites for permanent 230 kV construction.	Completed	10/05/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: The pre-construction meeting and environmental training for the OMPPA crews occurred on December 2nd. PAR Construction will be the construction contractor for the OMPPA tower work. OMPPA tower work is currently scheduled to commence in January 2006.

Wilson Construction has currently scheduled work through December 17th, taking the remainder of 2005 off and returning to the project on January 3, 2006.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS:

Table 2 presents the Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) Requests processed to date.

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 12/06/05)

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; Extended from 07/18 to 09/18	07/18/05
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

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 – A Wilson crew was set up off Camino Monte Sombra during the stringing and sagging operation.



Figure 2 – The BMPs were repaired and augmented below the stringing operation at Tower 25.



Figure 3 – The damaged conductor was cut into smaller sections and rolled by hand since the reel truck was not available. Note the conductor going through the vegetation up the left side of the photograph.



Figure 4 – The clearing crew worked on the edges of the approved laydown area on the east side of the Herrick Center.



Figure 5 – The fiber rolls and water bars on the old stringing site near the Miguel Substation have been increased and improved.