



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC

**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** March 31, 2006

**Subject:** Weekly Reports #77 and #78: March 5-March 18, 2006

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Brady Daniels

## **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. 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. Some sites have been hand-seeded by the SDG&E/Essex Environmental Inspector (EI). SDG&E has secured the contractor HydroPlant to complete the hydroseeding and hand reseeding work on areas that were ready for restoration. Most of the sites where construction activities have been completed have been reseeded. Reseeding site preparation includes the removal of any excess material or spoils, and the decompaction of the sites. SDG&E determined that revegetation of remaining sites would have to wait until work in those areas has been completed.

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

### **Summary of Activity:**

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 1, 2005.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>. Work reported during the subject weeks included the following:

1. Wilson crews worked to string conductor between Tower Site 132 and the Miguel Substation during the weeks of March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>.
2. PAR crews worked on stringing in the Summit Avenue area in Lakeside during the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. SDG&E crews continued to work off of a punch list to repair BMP's and construction related damage along the project route.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. The CPUC EM met with the Essex EI to review the impacts to California coastal sage scrub habitat by an off right-of-way incident near Tower Site 132 (see Figure 1). SDG&E notified the CPUC Lead EM of the incident as soon as the impact was accessed by the Essex EI. The incident occurred when crews used access roads following a storm event before the roads had dried out. The area impacted was approximately 4 feet by 20 feet and no impact to nesting birds was noted. SDG&E was informed by the CPUC Lead EM that SDG&E needs to work with the contractors in poor conditions and tight right-of-way situations to prevent further off right-of-way incidents.
2. The CPUC EM noted that some of the BMPs at Tower Site 132 were not installed effectively and informed the Essex EI and the project SWPPP inspector (see Figure 2). The CPUC EM was notified that the issues would be corrected before the forecasted rain events. In addition, the pad at Tower 41 was in need of BMPs to address the newly disturbed pad.
3. The Essex EI and the CPUC EM reviewed the conditions of the CPUC approval for the addendum to Variance Request 17. Inspected work areas and discussed related avian surveys and avoidance measures for vegetative species of concern falling within designated work area.
4. The majority of the work occurred at the Miguel Substation during the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Essex EI explained that gnatcatchers have recently been observed around project area, but no breeding or even pairing behaviors have been observed.
5. All barrel cactuses within the staging area, or along the access road to the staging area, have been flagged for avoidance.
6. The CPUC EM noted that a reel truck traveled outside of the designated access road and impacted two small patches of coastal sage scrub (CCS) habitat at the Summit Avenue sub-site, adjacent to the Par equipment yard (see Figure 3). The impacted vegetation was non-native grasses and buckwheat shrub. The impacted areas were both roughly 60 square feet in size (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM informed the PAR foreman that although a larger area could be cleared per the project EIR, work within the nesting season must be restricted to cleared areas. The two small areas of CCS were impacted when the reel truck attempted to move on narrow roads that were not aligned well for the operation.

#### **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>. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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:**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, SDG&E submitted Variance Request 27 to work on the Caesar Chavez holiday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to keep the project on schedule after recent delays obtaining ISO outages. This request was approved on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Table 1 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 03/31/06)

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>th</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 Amendment 02/27/06	Parking of a crane truck in the vegetation approximately 500 feet southwest of Site 10.	Completed	5/10/05 and 03/08/06
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 Amend.- 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 <sup>th</sup> to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	5/31/05
21	09/08/05	Work on Sunday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> to stay on schedule for energizing the line.	Completed	09/15/05
22	10/04/05 Amend.- 01/26/06	Four stringing sites for permanent 230 kV construction. Fourth site expanded under amendment.	Completed	10/05/05 and 01/31/06
23	01/10/06	Work on the Martin Luther King Holiday, Monday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> .	Completed	01/11/06

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
24	01/18/06	Setting of guard poles structures at Hwy 94 and above Steele Canyon High School.	Completed	01/23/06
25	02/02/06	PAR stringing/snubbing site in Santee for the OMPPA portion.	Completed	02/09/06
26	02/03/06	Wilson crews to work on President's Day, February 20 <sup>th</sup> .	Completed	02/09/06
27	03/16/06	PAR/Wilson crews to work on C. Chavez Day, March 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Completed	03/30/06

**UPCOMING ITEMS:**

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS:**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, SDG&E requested a TEWS near the Miguel Substation for staging of a wire pulling truck. This request was approved on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Table 2 presents the Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) Requests processed to date.

**TABLE 2  
TEWS TRACKING  
(Updated 03/31/06)**

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; 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
12	Los Coches to Mission	12/08/05	Expansion of stringing site above Los Coches Substation.	Approved from 12/07 to 2/07	12/07/05

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date <sup>1</sup>
13	Los Coches to Mission	12/08/05	Expansion of tower pad above Los Coches Substation.	Approved from 12/08 to 2/07	12/08/05
14	Los Coches to Miguel	02/23/06	Staging of a Pulling Truck on Miguel Substation property.	Approved from 03/07 to 05/07	03/07/06
15	Los Coches to Mission		Expansion of tower pad above Los Coches Substation.	Approved from 12/08 to 2/07	12/08/05
16	Los Coches to Miguel		Staging of a Pulling Truck on Miguel Substation property.	Approved from 03/07 to 05/07	03/07/06

<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** – Location of off right-of-way incident near Tower 132 due to slippery road conditions. Area impacted was approx. 4 by 20 feet.



**Figure 2** – Plastic sheeting needs to be keyed into top of slope and straw wattles on slope need to be properly installed.



**Figure 3** – The reel truck in the foreground is the truck and exact turn where incident occurred. The truck length and turning radius caused the issue on the tight access road.



**Figure 4** – One of the two areas of CCS areas disturbed by the reel truck near the Summit Avenue yard.