



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT**

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 4, 2007
Subject: Construction Status Report #2: November 4, 2007 – December 4, 2007

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Jenny Slaughter

CPUC EM Jenny Slaughter was on site November 9th.

The SCE Riverway Project includes: construction of a new 66/12-kilovolt (kV) low-profile substation, constructed on an approximately two-acre walnut orchard site in the City of Visalia, California. The project also includes installation of approximately 1,200 feet of underground 66 kV subtransmission lines starting at the intersection of Riggin Avenue and the extended North Mooney Boulevard and ending at the substation; and installation of new fiber optic cable and communication equipment to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunication system.

Currently, under Notice to Proceed #1, construction is limited to walnut tree removal at the project site, preparation of the laydown yard, and installation of temporary fencing.

WALNUT TREE REMOVAL & TEMPORARY FENCING:

Summary of Activity:

Per SCE "tree removal activities at the site would be related to removing the trees at the substation site and access road (along the future Corvina Drive) to the full depth of their root system." Tree removal began on Monday, October 29th.

Per Erika Wilder, SCE Environmental Coordinator, prior to the commencement of construction activities, all crew personnel were appropriately trained on environmental issues including protocols for biological resources including San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) protection, unanticipated cultural materials, as well as Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) mandates.

The SJKF has potential to occur in the project area. Pre-construction surveys did not reveal any evidence of SJKF or burrowing owls. Under Mitigation Measure B-1 "SCE shall implement the USFWS Standardized Recommendations for protection of the SJKF".

The CPUC EM arrived on-site on November 9th and met with Ed Lucas, SCE Inspector. All of the walnut trees had already been topped-off. Crews were pulling the roots out of the ground with an excavator (see Figure 1). Once the tree roots were removed, the surrounding dirt fell back into the void creating only a shallow depression. It does not appear that animal escape ramps will be needed. The wood debris is being piled and hauled off to be chipped (see Figure 2). As of December 1st, all trees and tree debris have been removed from the site. Further construction of the Substation site is on hold until the grading permit is issued.

Per SCE, prior to construction, silt fence had been installed around the entire substation boundary.



PREPARATION OF LAYDOWN YARD:

Summary of Activity:

As of the CPUC EM site visits, no preparatory work had been conducted at the laydown yard.

UPCOMING:

Once the site grading permit is issued, SCE will request an NTP for the remaining aspects of the project.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On October 17, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for preliminary work of the SCE Riverway Project. Activities include tree removal, preparation of a laydown yard adjacent to the substation site, and installation of temporary fencing.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

No Project Memorandums or Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1 – An exactor is used to remove the tree stumps and roots from the new substation site, November 9, 2007.



Figure 2 – A second excavator loading the tree stump debris into trucks for chipping off site, November 9, 2007.