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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August 6, 2008  
**Subject:** Construction Status Report #10: July 26, 2008 – August 2, 2008

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. During the visit, he met with Ed Lucas, SCE Inspector. Lucas will leave the project after August 20<sup>th</sup> for vacation. Another SCE Inspector, Dennis Ower, will join Lucas for a week and then assume inspection responsibility for the duration of the Project.

The SCE Riverway Project includes construction of a new 66/12-kilovolt (kV) low-profile substation on an approximate 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 (NTP) #4, construction includes electrical and sub-transmission construction, site Landscaping, fence/gate, and Lighting. Substation electrical construction, which includes installation of the transformers, capacitor banks, and MEER setup, has been recently completed. Landscaping and outside roadway and retention basin construction are underway. All civil work under NTP #4 has also been completed, including placement of crushed rock, concrete pads and shaker plates, and installation of the ground grid, concrete footings, and conduit.

**PREPARATION OF LAYDOWN YARD AND SITE GRADING:**

**Summary of Activity:**

Prior to the August 1<sup>st</sup> CPUC EM site visit, the laydown yard had been dismantled.

**CIVIL CONSTRUCTION**

**Summary of Activity:**

MCS Construction, Inc. began civil construction activities on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. By May 27<sup>th</sup>, all civil work had been completed.

**ELECTRICAL AND SUB-TRANSMISSION CONSTRUCTION**

**Summary of Activity:**

By August 1<sup>st</sup>, all substation electrical and sub-transmission construction activities, except landscaping and outside road building, had been completed.

One of the transformers was activated before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and was tied into the local power grid in order to meet the increased electricity demand expected during the holiday. The remainder of the system was completed and activated shortly after the holiday.

A paving contractor completed paving roadways within the substation (see Figure 1), and constructed an asphalt berm around the transformers.



The landscaping contractor has begun construction of the road outside the north border of the substation (see Figure 2). This contractor also will implement landscaping on a ten-foot wide strip on the outsides of the east, south, and west walls of the substation. This landscaping will include installation of a permanent irrigation system. The landscaper will be responsible for the initial three months of maintenance. In addition to the road and landscaping, this contractor is constructing three retention basins between the north wall and the outside road. These retention basins will hold water runoff from the outside road and the area surrounding the walls of the substation. Two shallow V ditches have already been installed to facilitate the drainage. The landscaping contractor expects to be finished with construction and planting by August 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

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

SCE was granted permission to remove the perimeter silt fencing instead of repairing it, since the Project is scheduled to be completed well in advance of the beginning of the next wet season. However, SCE has decided to leave it in place until road construction is completed.

The CPUC monitor has surveyed the walnut grove and other surrounding areas bordering the project site on several occasions during the current nesting season. The bird species observed so far this breeding season that may have nested in the immediate vicinity of the Project site include red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, Nuttall's woodpecker, American crow, American robin, western bluebird, Brewer's blackbird, house finch, lesser goldfinch, and house sparrow. Many sites for cavity and tree platform nesting bird species exist in the walnut grove immediately adjacent to the Project site. There is little nesting habitat for bush and ground nesting species. No occupied nests have been observed, but behavior suggests that several species are nesting within the grove adjacent to the Project site. It is highly unlikely that Project activity will negatively affect any nearby nesting activity, since project activity is strictly confined to the Project site. There has been no attempt so far by any bird species to nest on site. The greatest amount of construction-produced sound occurred during the grading portion of the Project, which was completed before the onset of nesting activities by most bird species. Sound levels continued to be well below the 60 decibel level which is frequently used as the upper limit for construction-related noise adjacent to sensitive species habitat.

The concrete clear-out station has been removed from the laydown yard. All concrete placements on site have been completed.

The fueling station in the laydown yard has been removed and the laydown yard has been dismantled.

There was no evidence of fuel, oil, lubricant, or other hazardous construction-related substance on the substrate at the Project site. The SCE Inspector reported that a few spills have occurred on the site and were cleaned up with contaminated substrate properly removed from the site.

There was no evidence of food-related waste on the Project site.

Dust was under control at the Project site. All vehicles were required to park on Mooney Drive. The former exit via Riggin Avenue has been closed off and the shaker plate removed.

In accordance with the Project's Storm Water Pollution prevention Plan, an asphalt berm has been built around the transformers in order to contain any spillage of transformer oil.

To date, all employees have been given environmental training by the SCE Inspector, Ed Lucas.

#### **NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 1 summarizes the NTPs issued to date for the SCE Riverway Substation Project.

**TABLE 1**  
**SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT NTPS**  
(Updated 08-06-08)

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#1	October 10, 2007	October 16, 2007	Preliminary construction activities, including tree removal, preparation of a laydown yard adjacent to the substation site, and installation of temporary fencing.
#2	January 23, 2008	January 25, 2008	Installation of new fiber optic cable and communication equipment to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunication system.
#3	January 24, 2008	January 28, 2008	Grading and civil work, including substation site grading, installation of temporary fencing, placement of crushed rock and shaker plates, installation of the ground grid, installation of concrete footings, placement of concrete pads, and the installation of conduit.
#4	March 6, 2008	March 27, 2008	Substation electrical and sub-transmission construction activities. In addition, the site Landscaping Plan, fence/gate plans, and Lighting Plan were submitted which fulfill the remaining preconstruction requirements for the project.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** The two paved roadways within the substation have been completed. The photograph faces westward.



**Figure 2:** The landscaping contractor has begun construction of the road outside the north border of the substation. The photograph faces eastward.