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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
PG&E SEVENTH STANDARD SUBSTATION PROJECT**

**To:** Monisha Gangopadhyay, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 15, 2010  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #1: March 8, 2010 – March 13, 2010

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

CPUC EM, Lynn Stafford, was on site March 11<sup>th</sup>. During the visit, he met with Matthew Mills, PG&E Inspector.

The SCE Seventh Standard Project includes: construction of a new 115/21-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation, constructed on an approximate five acre almond orchard site at 33815 Seventh Standard Road in Bakersfield, California. The project also includes installation of three tubular steel poles, including two dead-ends, two drop-down structures, up to nine distribution circuits (at full buildout), and a paved 550-foot-long access road from Seventh Standard Road to the substation.

Currently, under Notice to Proceed #1, construction is limited to site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property.

**Summary of Activity:**

Prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed #1, the almond trees within the five acre site had been removed by PG&E during fall 2009, in preparation for substation construction. Also, Crimson Oil Company, which owns a nearby capped oil well, placed an oil pipe encased in corrugated steel culvert pipe in a trench across the location of the to-be-constructed access road to the substation.

Prior to construction, all personnel received environmental training by a representative of Transcon, a PG&E consultant. This training included all subjects included in the mitigation measures for the project. Thirty-one employees were trained on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Four were trained later in the week before they began work on the project. The training materials are available on a daily basis onsite. The sign-sheets were viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC.

Preparation and grading of the site began after the initial environmental training session. The construction crew during the first week included operators for an excavator and a grader (see Figure 1), and a root detail crew removing roots in the ground left from the earlier almond grove removal.

Besides the PG&E Inspector, a biological monitor and a soils inspector were present during the grading operation. The biological monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, and trained new employees as they arrived.

No evidence of kit fox was found, and no birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the project.

A water truck was on site. Because of recent rains and the resultant moist ground, watering for dust control did not occur until Thursday afternoon of the first week.



A shaker plate with rock apron was in place at the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road. After grading of the site is completed, the access road will be paved (see Figure 2).

The CPUC EM observed that the work site was clean with no trash, including food-related materials, present. A hand board was present at the site with safety instructions (see Figure 3) and equipment in place (see Figure 4).

**Summary of Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC NTP #1 included seven specific conditions to be met during or prior to construction. Evidence was either obtained prior to the CPUC EM site visit or observed on site that all conditions were being met. All permits, compliance plans, NTP #1, copies of environmental training materials, and training sign-up sheets were on site. The pre-construction biological survey was executed on February 12, 2010, and subsequently reported. Because PG&E decided to provide a fulltime biological monitor, the five questions concerning implementation and documentation of biological resource protection measures are being addressed on a daily basis.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

On March 2, 2010, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within Seventh Standard Substation property.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

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

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Grading of the site began during the week of March 8, 2010. The site has been demarcated by fencing. The photograph faces westward.



**Figure 2:** The access will be paved. At present a shaker plate and rock apron are located at the entrance to Seventh Standard road behind the photograph, which faces southward.



**Figure 3:** Safety and security instructions and contact information are clearly visible at the access to the work area.



**Figure 4:** Emergency first aid and fire extinguisher kits are clearly visible and accessible at the entrance to the work area.