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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: May 18, 2010
Subject: Report #5: April 25, 2010 – May 15, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site May 11th. During the visit, he met with Jim Parker and John Tart, PG&E Inspectors, and with Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor.

The PG&E 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.

During the subject reporting period, work continued on the activities permitted by Notice to Proceed #1, which includes site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property.

On May 10, 2010, Notice to Proceed #2 was issued by CPUC. This permit will allow the remaining aspects of construction including general electrical work, installation of steel structures, low and high voltage equipment, installation of the electrical controls enclosure and telecommunications equipment, equipment testing, paving of roads, and final grading of the property. Work began on May 11, 2010 on installation of the electrical controls enclosure.

SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION 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.

During the subject period, preparation and first stage grading of the site were completed. Roots from the earlier tree removal have been extracted and removed from the site. The substation site grading has been completed to sub-grade level including all of the access road. An additional few inches of material will be imported from off site to reach final grade. Preparation for structure foundations continued during the subject period.

On May 11, equipment and materials for the installation of the electrical controls enclosure (Modular Protection Automation and Control enclosure) arrived on site (see Figure 1). The new crew for installation of the enclosure from Sheedy Construction and truck drivers involved in bringing in equipment and materials were given environmental training and safety instructions before they commenced work (see Figure 2). The controls enclosure was erected and bolted on to its concrete pad by the end of the subject period (see Figure 3).

The contractors currently are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The civil contractor continued to use a water truck for dust control. The truck broke down at the beginning of the third week of the subject period. The contractor was informed that no further construction activity would occur until dust control was reactivated. The truck was repaired and functioning on May 11 when installation of the controls enclosure began.

All personnel working on site receive environmental training by a representative of Transcon Environmental, Inc., a PG&E consultant, prior to commencing work on the Project site. This training includes all subjects included in the mitigation measures and the SWPPP for the project. The training materials, as well as pertinent permits, and other Project documents, were available on a daily basis onsite. The sign-sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC. On Tuesday, May 11, approximately twelve new crew members received environmental training.

Besides the PG&E Inspector(s), a Biological Monitor has been present during all work activity. The Biological Monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, inspected newly arriving equipment for cleanliness, checked stored pipe for closures (see Figure 4), checked for food-related trash, and trained new employees as they arrived. She also ensured compliance with all other environmental mitigation measures such as fugitive dust control and fluid spill prevention and containment.

Tracks of fox were found within the substation site during the subject period (see Figure 5), as they were during the prior period. The size of the tracks was small. They may have been made by either the protected San Joaquin kit fox or the non-native red fox. Coyote continued to be seen in the adjacent almond orchard. Several bird species have been observed in the area, including mourning and collared doves, western scrub-jay, killdeer, American crow, red-tailed hawk, black phoebe, northern mockingbird, lesser goldfinch, rose-ringed parakeet and other species. No birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the Project during the subject period. Killdeer has the potential to attempt nesting on the disturbed ground of the site. The Biological Monitor has determined there is only a single individual present, probably an unmated male.

A shaker plate with rock apron was in place at the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road.

No leakage of fluids from equipment was observed. Equipment was being monitored continually. The Biological Monitor sent one piece of newly arriving equipment off site to be cleaned of caked dirt before it could be used on the project (see Figure 6).

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 and equipment in place.

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 NTP #1 questions concerning implementation and documentation of biological resource protection measures are being addressed on a daily basis.

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

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.

On May 10, 2010, NTP #2 was issued by the CPUC for the remaining aspects of construction.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Equipment and materials for the installation of the electrical controls enclosure (Modular Protection Automation and Control enclosure) were hauled to the site immediately after NTP #2 was issued. The photograph was taken in the access road and faces northward.



Figure 2: The new crew for installation of the enclosure from Sheedy Construction and truck drivers involved in bringing in equipment and materials were given environmental training and safety instructions before they commenced work by the Biological Monitor on the left.



Figure 3: The controls enclosure was erected and bolted on to its concrete pad during the last week of the subject period. The crane in front of the pad is positioned to receive the four sub-units of the enclosure that were brought on site by flat bed trucks. The enclosure pad is in the northeast corner of the substation site. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 4: The pipe stored on site with diameters four inches and greater and more than four feet in length are covered to discourage usage by animals.



Figure 5: The four small tracks in the center of the photograph are from a small fox that visits the site regularly at night. The site is kept free of food-related materials and potential cover. All equipment is checked for resting animals by the Biological Monitor before work begins each day.



Figure 6: This piece of equipment initially arrived on site with caked dirt on its undercarriage. The contractor was asked to take it off site and get it cleaned. The photograph faces westward.