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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: June 1, 2010
Subject: Report #6: May 16, 2010 – May 29, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site May 27th. During the visit, he met with Matt Mills 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 approximately 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 period, work continued on the activities permitted by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #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. The civil contractor is D & C.

On May 10, 2010, NTP #2 was issued by CPUC. This NTP allows 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 during the prior reporting period on installation of the electrical controls enclosure. The electrical contractor is TTR.

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.

The electrical controls enclosure has been installed on its pad (see Figure 1).

Construction of structure foundations and below-ground conduit trenches continued during the subject period (see Figure 2). Vaults for the incoming electric lines have been placed (see Figure 3), and lids to those vaults were in the process of being secured on May 27 of the subject period (see Figure 4).

Poles for the perimeter chain link fencing were being installed during the subject period (see Figure 5). The base rock for the substation pad and the access road has been laid in the path of the fencing. Chain link perimeter fence will be placed on both sides of the access road and along the south, north and east boundaries of the substation. A concrete paneled wall will be placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. Supports for the concrete wall paneling have been placed. The pre-fab concrete panels for the wall will be arriving on site within the next few weeks.



Two office trailers and two storage containers (see Figure 6) have been installed for the construction phase.

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. During construction it is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage (see Figure 7). This section may be used for future substation expansion.

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

Security is on site after work hours and 24 hours/day on non-work days.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The civil contractor continued to use a water truck for dust control. Fugitive dust did not appear to be an issue during the subject period.

All personnel working on site, including the security guard staff, have received environmental training by the Transcon Environmental, Inc. biological monitor 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.

Besides the PG&E Inspectors, 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, checked trenches and holes, checked for food-related trash, and trained new employees as they arrived. She, with the inspectors, also ensured compliance with all other environmental mitigation measures such as fugitive dust control and fluid spill prevention and containment.

Trenches more than two feet deep were provided with animal escape ramps (see Figure 8). One new shipment of pipe was insufficiently sealed (see Figure 9). Shrink-wrap was being purchased to replace the former sealing.

No new fox tracks were found within the substation site during the subject period, as they were during the prior period. The surface of the soil on the site is crusty and non conducive to track formation at this time. Several bird species have been observed in the area. 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 continued to observe this and all other bird species for evidence of nesting. A pair of black phoebes apparently was nesting in the adjacent almond grove, but has not been seen since a recent spraying of that orchard by the farmer. There is no evidence that the Project is negatively affecting any bird nesting activity.

A shaker plate with rock apron continued to be 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. Newly arriving equipment was checked for cleanliness.

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: The electrical controls enclosure has been installed. It was hauled on site in four sections, and then assembled and bolted to its concrete pad. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 2: Construction of structure foundations and below-ground conduit trenches continued during the subject period. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 3: Vaults for the incoming electric lines have been placed next to the electrical control enclosure (to the right). One of the construction office trailers is in the distance. The photograph faces eastward.



Figure 4: Lids for the incoming electric lines vault were installed during the subject period. The photograph faces eastward.



Figure 5: Poles for the perimeter chain link fencing were being installed during the subject period. The base rock that will cover the substation pad has been laid in the path of the fencing prior to its installation. The photograph shows the south perimeter section, and faces westward.



Figure 6: Two storage containers have been installed. These are closed each night to prevent animal usage. The photograph faces northwestward.



Figure 7: The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. It may be used for future substation expansion. During construction it is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage. The Biological Monitor and inspectors check this area several times each day for leaks, trash, open pipes, animals under equipment, etc. The photograph faces northwestward.



Figure 8: Construction involves the temporary excavation of many trenches and holes for foundations and conduits. All holes are covered overnight, and deep trenches are provided with ramps. These features are regularly checked by the biological monitor.



Figure 9: This batch of tower parts was sealed with tape upon delivery on site. The combination of poor quality tape, improper installation, and temperature changes caused some of the seals to fail. The contractor was directed to use different material to seal the pipes properly. The photograph was taken in the laydown yard in the western portion of the site, and faces northwestward.