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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 28, 2010
Subject: Report #8: June 13, 2010 – June 26, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site June 21st. During the visit, he met with Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor, and John Tart, the PG&E Electrical Inspector.

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 build-out), 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 Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2. Activities authorized under NTP #1 include site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property. NTP #2 permitted activities include 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. The civil contractor is D & C and 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.

During the subject period, erection of structures began (see Figure 1). Construction of below-ground conduit trenches and the ground grid system continued (see Figure 2). The transformer was installed on the pad that had been placed during the prior reporting period (see Figure 3).

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing continued during the subject period (see Figure 4). The eight-foot high chain link fencing arrived during the subject period, and has been partially installed. 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 prefab concrete panels for the wall will be arriving on site within the next few weeks.

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. 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:

In addition to the PG&E construction inspector(s), a Transcon Environmental Inc. 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. The biological monitor uses a 32-point check list each work day based on this project's mitigation measures to ensure coverage of all environmental issues.

All personnel working on site, including the security guard staff, have received environmental training by the 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 crew training sign-up sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC.

During the subject period, open trenches were less than two feet deep and were sloped enough to allow escape by animals.

No evidence of kit fox was found within the substation site during the subject period. Scat of coyote was found on the perimeter of the site. No other mammal, reptile, or amphibian activity was noted. Several bird species have been observed in the area. One active killdeer nest continued to be present on site during the subject period. The area surrounding the nest has been roped off for exclusion from all Project activity. The parent killdeer have been incubating for more than two weeks. Hatching is expected to occur during the following reporting period. No other birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the Project during the subject period.

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

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.

No concrete clean-out basin is on site, because the concrete delivery trucks used are equipped with internal recycling systems that clean the concrete delivery chamber and stores the wash-out within the truck for reuse.

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 biological monitor and the contractor superintendent inspect the site thoroughly at the end of each work day.

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 conditions 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: During the subject period, erection of structures began. Construction of below-ground conduit trenches and the ground grid system continued. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 2: During the subject period, installation of the ground grid system continued. Narrow trenches were excavated along the blue lines. If left open overnight, they were checked by the biological monitor for animals before commencement of work in the morning. The photograph faces westward.



Figure 3: The transformer was hauled onsite and installed on the previously poured pad. The electrical controls enclosure is behind the transformer on the left. The photograph faces northeastward.



Figure 4: Construction of the perimeter chain-link fence continued during the subject period. The photograph faces northward toward the access road and Seventh Standard Road. One of the three recently installed tubular towers stands in the middle distance.