235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E SEVENTH STANDARD SUBSTATION PROJECT

To: Monisha Gangopadhyay, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 9, 2010
Subject: Report #10: July 25, 2010 – August 7, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site August 6th. During the visit, he met 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 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) #2. Prior to the subject period, most work on NTP #1 permitted activities had been completed, which included site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property. Completion of the perimeter fencing remains to be completed. NTP #2 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 electrical contractor is TTR. An electrical testing crew from PG&E also was present during the subject period.

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 continued (see Figure 1). Construction of below-ground conduit trenches and installation of wiring continued (see Figure 2).

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing was mostly completed during the prior reporting period. The eight-foot high chain link fencing is being installed on both sides of the access road and along the south, north and east boundaries of the substation. A concrete paneled wall was placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. An access gate will be placed in the middle of the wall. No work was done on either the chain link fencing or the access gate during the subject period.

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. This portion will contain the retention basin. During construction, part of the western portion is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage. This section may be used for future substation expansion.

Final grading has not occurred on the access road, and will not be completed until the City of Bakersfield road work is completed on Seventh Standard Road at the entrance to the access road.

The contractors currently are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday.

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 checklist 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 sign-in sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-in 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. The only mammal detected on site was domestic dog. No other mammal, reptile, or amphibian activity was noted. The ends of pipe with diameters four inches or greater, and lengths of four feet or greater were kept capped. An opening from a conduit trench into a closed vault was blocked to prevent usage by foxes and other animals (see Figure 2).

Several bird species have been observed in the area. Black phoebes and western kingbird continued to frequent the site during the subject period. Both species will utilize human structures for nesting (see Figure 3). Storage containers on site were kept closed, and netting was placed around the opening under trailers. The measures put in place to discourage nesting by bird species has been successful to date. If nesting attempts occur, the nests will be removed before eggs are laid. The killdeer nest that was discovered earlier in the season in the storage section was protected until nesting was successfully completed.

The contractor (TTR) continued to use water trucks (see Figure 4) for dust control. Watering occurred on dirt surfaces on the entire site as much as three times per day when necessary. On one Friday during the subject period, the contractor only worked the first half of the normal work period. The contractor was asked to bring back the water truck operator later in the day, and adequately prepare the site for the weekend. At the end of each work day, the site surface consists of either well-compacted dirt, or, in areas recently disturbed, the loosened soil has a fairly thick crust from watering. Fugitive dust did not appear to be an issue during the subject period. Applicant Proposed Measures #6 and #7 continued to be enforced.

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 store 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 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: Erection of structures continued during the subject period. The photograph faces southeastward.

Figure 2: Construction of below-ground conduit trenches and installation of wiring continued. An opening from a conduit trench into a closed underground vault was blocked (wood covering in shaded area) to prevent usage by foxes and other animals.

Figure 3: Several Project structures and construction facilities create potential nesting opportunities for several bird species. This small shaded ledge on the partially completed substation structure is an example. The measures put in place to discourage nesting by bird species have been successful to date.

Figure 4: The contractor continued to use water trucks for dust control. Especially important has been the preparation of the soil surface at the end of each work week in order to prevent fugitive dust from occurring during the weekend. The photograph faces southwestward.