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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: September 20, 2010
Subject: Report #13: September 5, 2010 – September 18, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site September 13th. During the visit, he met with Holly Hill, the 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 much of the 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 and final grading of the access road 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 structure installation contractor, TTR, completed most installation during the prior period, and are no longer on site. Electrical installation testing crews from PG&E and another consultant continued to be 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.

The PG&E and other consultant on electrical installation and testing worked on site throughout the subject period.

Final connections with outside lines including the installation of two more steel tubular poles will be completed after the final access road grading is completed. Also, another contractor, DC, will return once the City of Bakersfield Seventh Standard Road work is completed to bring the site to grade, apply gravel and pavement, and complete the fencing.

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing was mostly completed several weeks prior to the subject 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 completion date for the Seventh Standard Road work is uncertain. A labor dispute on that project stopped work for several weeks.

The electrical testing crews 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:

The PG&E construction inspector discontinued monitoring the site when TTR completed its activity late-August. A Transcon Environmental Inc. Biological Monitor was present during all work activity during the subject period. 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 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 sign-in sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-in sheets will be sent to the CPUC. No personnel were trained during the subject period.

During the subject period, no open trenches were present. The ends of pipe with diameters four inches or greater, and lengths of four feet or greater were kept capped.

No evidence of kit fox was found within the substation site during the subject period. Some rodents are beginning to reenter the site from the adjacent almond grove. Also, one immature rattlesnake was discovered and safely removed to another location. A few weeds (primarily Russian thistle) are appearing on site, particularly in the retention basin area, but probably are not yet providing animal habitat. The main attraction to the site by animals at the present time is cover under or within structures. Recent harvesting activity in the adjacent almond grove may have been responsible for the appearance of the snake and the rodents.

Several bird species have been observed in the area. During the subject period, only black phoebes continued to frequent the site. The phoebe and a few other bird species in the area will utilize human structures for nesting. Storage containers on site were kept closed, and netting has been placed around the opening under the testing trailer. The measures put in place to discourage nesting by bird species has been successful to date. If nesting attempts occur, the partially constructed nests will be removed with prior California Department of Fish & Game concurrence. The killdeer nest that was discovered earlier in the season in the storage section was protected until nesting was successfully completed.

The contractor (TTR) had been responsible for dust control. After TTR completed its work during the prior period, no watering or other dust control measure was utilized in lieu of the watering by TTR. Fugitive dust did not appear to be an issue during the visit by the CPUC EM during the subject period. Vehicular activity decreased on the site with the departure of TTR crews. However, PG&E and other personnel

have traveled across the site in vehicles at times, and undoubtedly will continue to do so. Significant areas of loose, dusty surface soil occur on site. This current soil condition, combined with hot, dry summer weather and occasional periods of wind gusts, is likely to produce fugitive dust in the near future. PG&E has indicated that watering for dust control will occur as needed.

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

No equipment was being used at the end of the subject period. No leakage of fluids from equipment was observed.

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.