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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: November 17, 2010
Subject: Report #16: October 24, 2010 – November 6, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site November 5th. During the visit, he met with Rob Wolfson, 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 #1 and #2. Prior to the subject period, most work on NTP #1 permitted activities had been completed, including 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. NTP #1 work conducted during the subject period included placement of road base and lining of the retention basin. NTP #2 activities also are mostly completed, and include the remaining aspects of construction such as 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. NTP #2 activity during the subject period was limited to electrical installation testing, and installation of the transmission-to-distribution transformer and the distribution transformer for on-site power supply.

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.

PG&E electrical testing crews continued work on site throughout the subject period.

The large transformer for incoming power had been installed previously. During the subject period, two smaller transformers were brought to the site and installed. These are the transmission-to-distribution transformer, which will carry the reduced voltage power to customers, and the distribution transformer for the on-site substation power supply (see Figure 1).

Final grading and placement of road base occurred during the subject period (see Figure 2).

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. This portion will contain the retention basin. During the subject period, lining of the slopes of the retention basin with concrete and final grading of the floor of the basin occurred (see Figure 3).

The substation is scheduled to be energized in mid-November.

Crews are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Saturday.

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

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The PG&E civil inspector continued monitoring the site during the subject period. 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 if needed, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, inspected newly arriving equipment for cleanliness, checked stored pipe for closures, checked trenches and holes when present, checked for food-related trash, and was prepared to train new employees as they arrived. The monitor 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.

During the subject period, no open trenches or pipes were present.

No evidence of kit fox was found within the substation site during the subject period. The main attraction to the site by animals at the present time is cover under or within structures. Efforts were made to reduce access to these enclosed areas.

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 and Game concurrence. The primary season for nesting for most species is over for 2010.

The civil contractor (TTR) provided watering for dust control as needed during 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.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: The transmission-to-distribution transformer, which will carry the reduced voltage power to customers, and the smaller distribution transformer for the on-site substation power supply, were installed during the subject period. The photograph faces northeastward.

Figure 2: Final grading and placement of road base occurred during the subject period. The photograph faces southward.

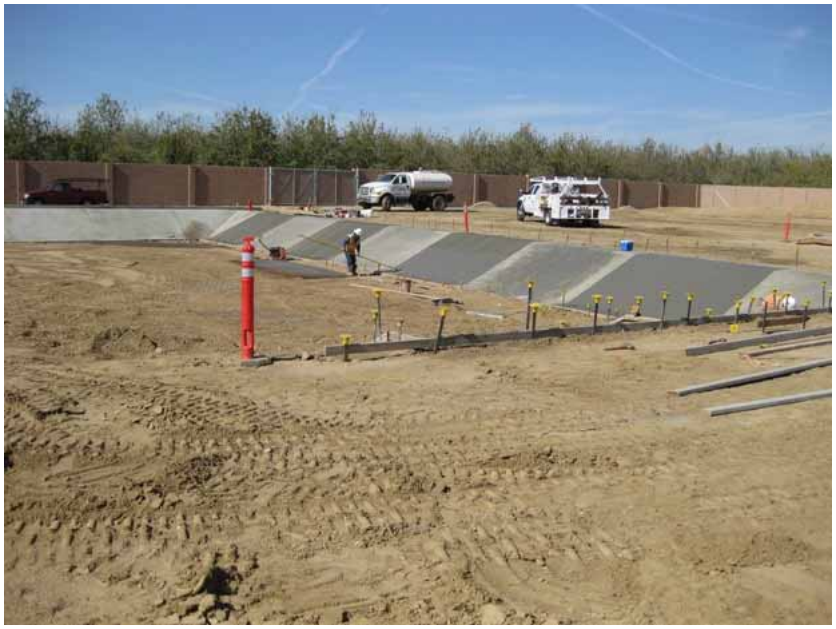

Figure 3: During the subject period, the slopes of the retention basin were lined with concrete and the native material comprising the floor of the basin was graded. The photograph faces northwestward.