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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 22, 2010
Subject: Report #17: November 7, 2010 – November 20, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site November 16th and 19th. During the visits, he met with Matt Mills, the PG&E Inspector and Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor. He also participated in a conference call on November 19th with Aspen and PG&E personnel concerning the timetable for completion of the project and the status of outstanding mitigation measures.

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.

History of Construction Activity:

Prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed #1 (NTP), 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.

CPUC NTP #1 was issued on March 2, 2010 for site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within substation property. The grading and civil construction includes grading the site, installation of permanent fencing, placement of road base, installation of concrete footings and foundations, and the installation of conduits and pull boxes.

CPUC NTP #2 was issued on May 10, 2010 for electrical work, installation of steel structures, high voltage work, installation of the Modular Protection Automation and Control enclosure, installation of low voltage equipment, installation of telecommunication equipment, paving of roads, and final grading.

Construction Activity during Subject Reporting Period:

During the subject period, the substation was energized beginning November 17, 2010 (see Figure 1). Prior to and during energizing of different components of the substation, PG&E electrical testing crews continued work on site.

Final grading and placement of road base continued during the subject period. On November 16, 2010, all roads within the site were paved (see Figure 2), including the access road out to the junction with the yet-to-be-completed Seventh Standard Road reconstruction (see Figure 3). The paved roads include the center portion of the access (see Figure 4), a road along the northern border of the site, and a figure-eight within and surrounding the electrical structure.

Work continued during the subject period on the retention basin. Work continued on the concrete slopes of the basin (see Figure 5). A spillway for incoming run-off was constructed (see Figure 6). The entire site has been graded to bring all runoff to the spillway which flows into the retention basin. The basin is floored with native material which will percolate the stored water. The basin also will contain any oil



spills from the transformers. Sensors will notify personnel of the spill immediately, so that the basin can be quickly cleaned of the leakage.

According to PG&E officials, electrical testing and final site preparation, including edging of paved roads, concrete curbing, final base rock placement, and construction of the retention basin is scheduled for completion by November 30. The short connection of the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road will be completed at a later date depending on progress on the road reconstruction.

Roadwork and retention basin crews worked from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Saturday. Electrical crews worked irregularly throughout the subject period, including a 23-hour shift on November 17-18.

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

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

PG&E civil and electrical inspectors continued monitoring the site during the subject period. A Transcon Environmental Inc. Biological Monitor was present during most 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. The completion of the perimeter fence will reduce animal access to the site.

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 had been kept closed and netting was placed around the opening under the testing trailer. At the present time, all storage containers and temporary construction-related trailers have been removed. One killdeer nest with eggs was discovered on open ground within the site earlier during the Project. It was protected until the young fledged and left the area. The measures used to prevent disturbance to bird nesting activity have been successful for the 2010 nesting season.

Dust control was maintained 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 substation was energized during the subject period. The entrance gate at the south end of the access road is maintained locked at all times, and entry is restricted. The photo faces southward with the eastern part of the substation in the background.



Figure 2: All roads within the site were paved during the subject period. The above section is part of the figure-eight through the substation. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 3: The access road (on the right) was paved out to the edge of the yet-to-be-completed Seventh Standard Road. The photograph faces eastward along Seventh Standard Road.



Figure 4: The center portion of the access was paved. The edging remains to be completed. The photograph faces northward towards Seventh Standard Road.



Figure 5: placement of the concrete slopes of the retention basin continued. A rock apron was placed within the basin below the spillway. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 6: A concrete spillway was constructed to direct run-off water into the retention basin to the right of the photograph, which faces southward.