



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Michael Rosauer, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August 30, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #4: August 22, 2004 – August 28, 2004  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 for work on the substation site was issued by the CPUC on Thursday, July 15.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on August 26 and reviewed the construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and potential variance requests with SCE.

The grounding grid on the substation site has been covered in rock to allow for the delivery of materials. An operator in a grader is spreading the rock and it will be watered to control dust (see Figure 1).

A crew worked on excavating for the foundation of buildings on the substation site (see Figure 2), while another crew built forms in completed excavations (see Figure 3). A drilling machine was on-site working through the very hard material in locations where substation structures require footings.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

The CPUC EM and Tracey Alsbrook of SCE walked the right-of-way to review construction status and environmental compliance. No issues of concern were noted during the tour. SCE requested approval to extend a v-ditch to connect to and SCE access road on the transmission right-of-way southeast of the substation site. The activity is required to maintain all-season access on the road and does not require a variance from the CPUC. SCE will need to coordinate with the property owner if such activities are not allowed under current agreements.

A coastal California gnatcatcher was sighted between the substation site and the transmission right-of-way near the southern gate. No construction activity is taking place in this area.

The site vegetation has been removed and LSA Environmental Inspector will not be on-site full-time. The sensitive resources on the hillside are separated from the construction activities by a cyclone fence. A paleontologist was on-site to monitor earthmoving activities. No fossils were noted during the subject week.

A water truck was working throughout the substation site to keep fugitive dust down on the grading and excavation operations.

### **Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

NTP #1 was approved by the CPUC on July 15, 2004. SCE is waiting for the City of Mission Viejo vote on October 30, 2004, regarding an assessment district to underground the proposed 66 kV subtransmission line through the City before moving forward with the 66 kV subtransmission line portion of the project. SCE has indicated that they will begin pre-construction compliance for the 230 kV upgrade work within the next week.

**Variance Requests:**

No variance requests have been submitted at this time. SCE will be submitting a variance to cut approximately 6 feet off the toe of the slope on the access road due to the limited turning radius of the trucks carrying some of the large equipment (see Figure 4).

**Upcoming Items:**

SCE will be submitting a request for an NTP on the 230 kV upgrade section of the project. SCE should start sending documents for compliance with the mitigation measures in the next week.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:** None

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Rock has been placed over the grounding grid on the substation site and is being spread by an operator in a motor grader.



**Figure 2** – An operator in a backhoe worked on excavating a foundation site on the north end of the station.



**Figure 3** – Crews starting construction of form work for building foundations.



**Figure 4** – SCE plans to submit a variance request for cutting the toe of the slope on the access road to allow for larger tractor trailers.