



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 29, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #8: September 19, 2004 – September 25, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on September 21 and reviewed the substation construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 220 kV transmission line Notice to Proceed (NTP) request with SCE. The number of workers on the site has increased from approximately 18 to over 30.

A drilling machine continued working during the subject week. The drilling crew worked with a coring bit and an auger bit for boring the holes to depth and a side-cut bit to make the shelf at the top of the foundation hole. Numerous bore holes throughout the substation site have been completed and are covered by plywood and marked with orange warning flagging. A small crew has been working on framing the foundations and setting the anchor bolts in the bore holes (see Figure 1). Several of the foundation pedestals have been completed on the southeastern portion of the substation site (see Figure 2).

The ironwork for both firewalls has been completed and the eastern firewall is ready for the concrete pour (see Figure 3). The reusable formwork will be moved to the western firewall and installed for the concrete pour on September 29. The wall height of the wall will be extended with cinderblocks once the concrete has cured. The purpose of the wall is to protect the adjacent electrical building from a transformer fire and isolate the two A transformers in case of a problem.

Crews worked with Bobcat loaders and small excavators to prepare the foundations near the B transformers.

The grounding grid on the substation site has been covered in rock and the area is being used for storage of materials that have been delivered to the site.

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.

Coastal California gnatcatchers have been 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 from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) has not been on-site full-time. The LSA EI is periodically checking the excavations and foundation holes for sensitive and common animals. The sensitive resources on the hillside are separated from the construction activities by a cyclone fence. A paleontologist was on-site to monitor foundation excavation and boring 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 excavation and drilling 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 submitted a request for an NTP on the 220 kV upgrade section of the project and the required documents for compliance with the required mitigation measures. Aspen has reviewed the request and the submitted documents. NTP #2 for the 220 kV upgrade section is pending CPUC approval.

Variance Requests: No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

Upcoming Items: None

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews working on the form work and anchor bolts for the foundation pilings at the substation site.



Figure 2 – Completed foundation pilings with anchor bolts. Most structures at the substation site will rest on raised foundations.



Figure 3 – The reusable form for the vertical firewall that will separate one of the two A transformers (230 kV) and the electrical building has been set up and is ready for the concrete pour.