



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: November 2, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #13: October 24, 2004 – October 30, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on October 28 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and rain impacts with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

The specialized crew working on the interior of the 220 kV main mechanical/electrical equipment room (MEER #1) was the only construction crew working on the substation site during the site visit. The remainder of the construction site was saturated from the recent rains and work was suspended for two to three days while the area dried out. SCE engineering and construction management worked with the MEER contractor on questions on the flooring system. The unused construction vehicles and equipment were parked in the southern laydown area due to the more stable ground surface.

No concrete pours were scheduled during the projected rains. Several foundations will need cleaning or re-excavation before concrete can be poured. The crews successfully placed the pre-formed concrete trenches despite the rains (see Figure 1). It was necessary for the crews to pump storm water from several of the trenches due to very slow natural drainage through the hard material.

Environmental Compliance:

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

The site vegetation has been removed from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) will not be on-site full-time. The LSA EI is periodically checking the excavations and foundation holes for sensitive and common animals. A paleontologist was on-site to monitor the minimal activities. One sea cow vertebrae was discovered during the subject week and collected for examination by the paleontologist. The fossil was discovered out of context and no work stoppage was necessary.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be functioning properly in most cases. The reliance on straw waddles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and was overwhelmed by some flows during the heavy rainfall. Several additional rows of sandbags were placed on the north end of the project near the guard shack to control the excessive run-off and sediment (see Figure 2). No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No work occurred on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit due to the recent rains and saturated right-of-way. The restart of construction was not anticipated to be before Saturday or Monday due to the condition of the access roads and work pads.

Environmental Compliance:

Some of the BMPs installed on the 220 kV right-of-way appeared to have been effective during the recent storms; however, the heavy rains and resultant sediment overwhelmed the straw wattles in several places. Straw wattles have been installed on the tower pad sites and the access roads. The spoil pile for the drilling operation was partially covered with jute netting and surrounded with straw wattles to minimize sediment transport. Steel plates have been installed over the drainage ditch on the access road from the substation site to allow vehicle passage without impacts to the water. Sediment has migrated down from the tower site immediately uphill from the crossing and needs to be removed from the concrete-lined drainage ditch (see Figure 3). The access road across the natural drainage is holding water due to the grade of the road (see Figure 4). Erosion of the road continues despite the sandbags and straw wattles that have been placed. Much of the water from the access road to the upper pads flowed to this lower access road and increased the erosion, despite efforts to direct the run-off west into the concrete v-ditch.

The LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) is currently on-site full-time on the transmission line right-of-way. The biological monitoring can be reduced in accordance with the NCCP once SCE has properly installed the exclusion fencing and the construction crews are no longer working in the sensitive habitat. A paleontologist was available to monitor if construction occurred. No fossils were noted on the transmission line corridor during the subject week.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTP #1 was approved for substation construction by the CPUC on July 15, 2004, and NTP #2 was approved for the 220 kV upgrade on September 29, 2004. SCE is expected to start submittal of pre-construction compliance materials for 66 kV subtransmission line portion of the project.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: SCE is working to submit the pre-construction compliance documents for the 66 kV towers.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – The pre-formed concrete trenches were set during the week despite the rain. Note the final two pre-form pieces sitting above the trench to the left.



Figure 2 – Additional rows of sandbags were placed near the guard shack to control the large amount of water run-off and sediment. The rear of the guard shack settled in the saturated soil.



Figure 3 – Sediment flowing down from a pad on the transmission line right-of-way toward the concrete drainage ditch.



Figure 4 – Water from the natural drainage and from along the access road has settled in the low area at the crossing.