



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: November 17, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #15: November 7, 2004 – November 13, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 10 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and scheduled construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Specialized crews continued working on the interior of the 66 kV mechanical/electrical equipment room (MEER #2) and on the roof of the 220 kV MEER #1 on the substation site during the site visit. This specialized crew works on prefabricated buildings for SCE throughout their system.

Several crews continued the work on preparation of the pre-cast concrete electrical trenches (see Figure 1). Metal cross braces have been installed over the trench in some locations to support the grating that will be in place during operation (see Figure 2).

One crew worked on connecting the foundation structures to the grounding grid for the substation site (see Figure 3). This system insures that all buildings and overhead structures such as supports and light poles within the substation site are properly grounded.

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) has not been 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. Several fossils have been discovered and collected for examination by the paleontologist during the course of the project. Digital photographs of the fossils have been transmitted to the CPUC EM for review. No further fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week; however, SCE assisted in the salvage of a fossil whale skull in an unrelated project across from the substation site.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be functioning properly. The reliance on straw waddles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and can be overwhelmed by flows during heavy rainfall. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The work that occurred on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit was limited to drilling of foundations east of the substation site and installation of the rebar cages in the completed foundation holes.

The drilling crew worked on the final foundations along the 220 kV transmission line corridor, above the substation site during the subject week (see Figure 4). The crew loaded up several of the drill bits that are no longer needed for removal from the project site.

A crew worked with a backhoe and small crane to set the rebar cages into the foundation excavations that have been completed by the drilling operation (see Figure 5). All four cages were set for the lattice tower foundation and the angle-iron anchors are on-site for the concrete pour. The lattice tower foundations on the lower site that were drilled last week have been poured (see Figure 6).

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 waddles in several places and required maintenance. Additional straw waddles have been installed on the access roads and the sediment has been cleaned from behind several of the straw waddled impacted by the recent storms.

The drilling location last week was immediately adjacent to a tree inside the exclusion zone and the crew requested permission from the SCE environmental coordinator to lift the fencing to place the base of the anchor bolt support structure within the exclusion zone. The work was completed and no environmental impact was noted to the tree or surrounding habitat.

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 the 66 kV subtransmission line portion of the project soon.

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 – Crews continued working on the preparation of the pre-cast concrete electrical trenches on the substation site.



Figure 2 – Metal braces for the grate system were set on some of the pre-cast concrete electrical trenches on the substation site.



Figure 3 – A crew worked on attaching foundations to the grounding grid.



Figure 4 – The drilling crew worked on the last foundations for the tower east of the substation site on the 220 kV transmission line corridor.



Figure 5 – A crew set rebar cages in the lattice tower foundation excavations on the hill southeast of the substation site.



Figure 6 – The foundation for the lattice tower at the base of the hill southeast of the substation site has been completed. Note the size compared to the existing lattice tower.