



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 22, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #20: December 12, 2004 – December 18, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on December 17 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 66 kV construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Crews on the northern portion of the substation site worked to prepare support structures prior to raising (see Figure 1). The concrete work on the south side of the Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) #1 has been completed and the crew started work on the ramps on the north side. A crew was finishing the surface of a concrete walkway on the north side of MEER #1 (see Figure 2).

A crew started laying asphalt on a section of the substation south of MEER #1 (see Figure 3). Other crews prepared for the delivery of the A transformers on December 20. Sandbags on sections of the access road were removed to provide room for the larger truck trailer used to move the transformers into the substation site. The larger trailer has rear-wheel steering to maneuver within the confines of the substation.

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. Several fossils have been discovered and collected for examination by the paleontologist during the course of the project. The majority of the excavation has been completed on the substation site and no fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site have been installed and maintained. The reliance on straw wattles 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 large mobile Hill Crane remains on-site and finished raising the steel poles and attaching the upper sections on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit. The crane was set on the pad prepared between the middle and southern lattice towers and was able to reach the steel pole foundations south of the substation site. The crews worked in both a basket held by the Hill Crane and mobile man-lifts to connect the insulators and cables on the steel pole portion of the transmission work (see Figure 4). The Bronto man-lift slid off the supports on the small, sloped pad and was moved inside the fence of the substation site to a level area. The SCE biologist help the crew set up the Bronto in the non-native vegetation (see Figure 5). No clearing or grading was required to set up the man-lift.

No other work occurred on the transmission line segment during the site visit. The height of the lattice sections is limited by the clearances required between the structures and the live transmission lines. The scheduled outage has been delayed until the first week of January due to the longer than expected outage at San Onofre Power Plant.

Environmental Compliance:

Many of the straw wattles had been moved to the side on the access roads to allow access during construction. The materials were on-site and the contractor was putting them back in place when no work was occurring in case of unexpected rains. No significant erosion or sediment issues were noted on the right-of-way. The BMPs along the edge of the right-of-way have been maintained and left in place. The contractor has moved the portable toilet away from the hillside to protect against chemicals spilling into the habitat.

SCE has moved the exclusion fencing near the southern tower location. The transmission line superintendent needs to move a crane to the north side of the tower to set the eastern lattice sections. The SCE biologist has examined the habitat and will monitor any vegetation clearing. SCE will place plating over the habitat and avoid the mature sage and cactus, using a sparsely vegetated corridor for access. The SCE requested minor expansion in the work area on the east side of this tower as well to place a mobile man-lift. The CPUC EM reviewed the area with the SCE biologist and the LSA Environmental Inspector (EI). One small cactus would be impacted and a section of a buckwheat plant would be covered by fill. The proposed activities would be temporary while the crew worked on the tower during the outage and was approved by the CPUC EM.

The LSA EI is not on-site full-time on the transmission line right-of-way, but will be on-site whenever work is occurring in sensitive areas. A paleontologist was available to monitor if ground disturbance occurred. The majority of excavation has been completed and 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 transmission 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. The CPUC EM reviewed the proposed 66 kV tower locations and associated access and work pads. The location of the access roads disturb sidehills and drainages. The CPUC EM requested that SCE look at alternative routes for the access roads that would minimize the disturbance of both the hillside and the native habitat. Previously disturbed areas exist that offer alternatives to the hill cuts and drainage crossing.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – A small crew worked to connect conduits to the pre-cast trench on the southern end of the substation site.



Figure 2 – A crew worked on finishing the concrete slab outside the northern wall of MEER #1.



Figure 3 – A crew worked to lay asphalt north of MEER #1.



Figure 4 – The Hill Crane held a basket to allow workers to connect cables and insulators to the steel pole arms.



Figure 5 – The Bronto man-lift was moved into the non-native vegetation under the supervision of the SCE biologist.