



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: January 13, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #23: January 2, 2005 – January 8, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on January 6 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 66 kV construction with SCE. Minimal work was occurring on the 220 kV transmission line due to the recent rains and saturated condition of the right-of-way. Only limited work occurred on the substation site due to the muddy conditions.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Rock has been spread around the truck holding the second of the A transformers to facilitate setting the transformer once the ground dries (see Figure 1). Additional rock was spread along the access routes around the substation site to address the consistent rain and mud issues. Sandbags and other BMPs on sections of the substation site were removed to provide room for spreading the rock and will be back in place for the predicted rains.

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.

In general, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site have been installed properly and maintained. The sandbags and straw waddles installed on the access road to the substation site were repaired following the recent heavy rains (see Figure 2). The CPUC EM informed SCE that the public right-of-way outside the substation site needs to be cleaned as soon as the rock delivery has been completed, or prior to any rain (see Figure 3). No other 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:

Crews worked to place rock on the access roads for the 220 kV transmission line in preparation for the planned outage (see Figure 4). Once the rock was down, trucks brought in materials for stringing line during the outage. An operator worked with a backhoe to cut the pad for the Bronto man-lift on the western access road (see Figure 5).

The height of the lattice sections is limited by the clearances required between the structures and the live transmission lines and no additional work can occur prior to a power outage. The scheduled outage has been delayed until January 8-9 due to the longer than expected outage at San Onofre Power Plant.

Environmental Compliance:

The straw wattles that had been moved to the side on the access roads to allow access during construction were back in place for the recent rains. The placement of rock addressed the erosion and sedimentation issues that were noted on the previous site visit. The culvert crossing near the substation back gate still needs protection on the downstream side of the road and wet spoils from the road work were set near the drainage (see Figure 6). The LSA EI was on-site watching the road and excavation activities and spoke with an operator about encroaching on the habitat. The CPUC EM informed the LSA EI that the spoil pile at the culvert needs to be moved or stabilized and the downstream side of the culvert protected.

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.

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 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 – Crews have spread rock around the truck holding the second A transformer and will set it onto the pad after the predicted rain.



Figure 2 – The BMPs at the storm drain on the access road were repaired.



Figure 3 – Material tracked onto the public right-of-way will be cleaned prior to the predicted rains.



Figure 4 – Rock was spread on the 220 kV access road to address erosion and provide all-weather access.



Figure 5 – A crew prepared the pad for the Bronto man-lift under the supervision of the LSA EI.



Figure 6 – The spoil pile needs to be addressed and BMPs are required at the culvert crossing near the substation back gate.