



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 2, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #30: February 20 – February 26, 2005.  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on February 24 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Recent rainfall limited the activities on the project during the site visit.

### **SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. SCE continued working on the A-bank transformers during the site visit. The crew worked on the installation of external covers and fittings for the oil tank on the A-bank transformers during the site visit. The oil tank for the A-bank transformers was being prepared for installation (see Figure 1).
2. A crew worked on the transformers outside the Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) #1.
3. A small crew with Kindness worked to place forms for concrete pads for the 12 kV section of the substation site.
4. A crew from PAR worked to repair the conduit running from the public right-of-way to the substation under the access road (see Figure 2). The conduit allowed passage of the mandrel, but the 12 kV cable for housekeeping power at the substation site would not pull, possibly due to friction on the long and curved pull. The problem was corrected and the cable was successfully installed to the substation site.
5. Work occurred on the 66 kV supports within the substation portion of the project. A small crew attached the upper portions of the supports to the poles.

#### **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. SCE has placed additional rock on the substation site, reducing the turbidity and sediment travel in rain events.

Some of the primary and secondary containment structures within the substation site have rainwater from the recent storms (see Figure 3). Any petroleum-laden water in these containment structures needs to be properly disposed of and the structures readied for any future rain events.

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. Crews were observed replacing BMPs that were impacted by daily construction activities. 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 as SCE prepared for upcoming rains.

#### **220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**

##### **Summary of Activity:**

No construction occurred on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

##### **Environmental Compliance:**

Although additional BMPs have been installed and some maintenance occurred on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way, additional maintenance needs to be completed at several locations. The silt fencing that has been installed around the northern structure still has excess sediment (see Figure 4). The sandbags from the southeastern portion of the access road were moved to the northern structure and the sediment now outlets directly into the habitat (see Figure 5). SCE was notified of the remaining concerns with the BMPs and the CPUC EM will review the repairs during the next site visit. SCE will use additional outside resources to inspect and make recommendation for improvements to the BMPs on the project to address the current concerns.

#### **66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**

##### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005. No construction on the 66 kV transmission line segment adjacent to the substation occurred during the site visit due to the wet condition of the right-of-way and access road. 66kV work within the substation included the following:

1. Inland Valley Construction poured the foundation for the 66 kV steel pole on the edge of the substation site (see Figure 6). The v-ditch was protected during the operation and the crews were cleaning any concrete from the steel plates over the v-ditch.

##### **Environmental Compliance:**

Many of the BMPs stopped sediment from leaving the construction area; however, some need maintenance (see Figure 7).

##### **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. NTP #3 for 66 kV within the City of Lake Forest was issued by CPUC on February 1, 2005.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:** No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

**UPCOMING ITEMS:** None.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – A SCE crew prepared to install the oil tank on the A-bank transformers.



**Figure 2** – The PAR crew worked to repair the conduit for the 12 kV power to the substation.



**Figure 3** – Containment structures need rainwater or any contaminated water removed and properly disposed.



**Figure 4** – The silt fencing on the 220 kV transmission line corridor was overwhelmed in several places and still requires maintenance.



**Figure 5** – The silt fencing on the southeastern access road on the 220 kV segment outlets directly to the protected habitat.



**Figure 6** – Inland Valley Construction poured the foundation for the 66 kV steel pole on the edge of the substation site.



**Figure 7** – The BMPs on the 66 kV right-of-way require maintenance before any additional rain events.