



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 22, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #46, June 12 – June 18, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on June 14th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were occurring in the substation and on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit. Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Several small NRG crews continued working within the 12 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 1). The B-bank transformers are not energized. These smaller transformers run between the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation. The 66 kV section of the substation has been energized and is marked by safety tape.
2. Two KGC crews were observed working in the substation site during the site visit. One crew worked with a small crane, setting the light poles on the completed foundations (see Figure 2). The other crew worked on the large trench running between the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site.
3. Reel trucks with 12 kV conductor were observed outside the substation site on Definition Road. The trucks may be preparing to pull conductor through the completed conduit from the substation site to the local distribution network.
4. The 220 kV section of the substation site has been marked off with caution tape now that it is energized. The several sections of the 66 kV portion of the site, which are energized, have been surrounded with cyclone fencing and caution tape as well. With the completion of the majority of the civil work, the remaining crews at the substation site have experience working in energized stations. SCE previously provided the CPUC EM was provided with an orientation on visiting an energized station.

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 turbidity and sediment travel in the case of rainfall.

A water truck was observed watering the access roads around the substation site to control fugitive dust (see Figure 3).

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. 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:

No work was observed on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM informed the SCE biologist previously that the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way need to be removed due to the proximity of the native plant communities. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The invasive plant species were removed and SCE will be watching the area for any emerging non-native plants.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. The SCE biologist will work with the crews to avoid any impact to the habitat or disturbance of the nesting birds if any work resumes in the area.

66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

NTP #3, for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest, was issued on February 1, 2005 and NTP #4 was issued on April 19, 2005 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures. Three crews were working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit. Construction has started on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo, immediately south of the 241 toll-road (NTP #4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation.

1. The foundation for the H-structure nearest the substation site, Structure 13, has been poured and the large mobile crane was moved to the pad below the structure (see Figure 4). The crew will prepare the crane for setting the steel sections of the H-structure on June 15th.
2. The crew at Structure 9 worked to prepare the rebar cage for the completed excavation (see Figure 5). Structure 9 is within the City of Mission Viejo; however, no involvement with the public was noted by the CPUC EM. Crews were also preparing the supports for the anchor bolts during the site visit. Some equipment and construction materials were staged outside the cleared area; however, the vegetation was completely ruderal and the area was previously disturbed.
3. Crews at H-Structure 11 worked with a crane and man-lifts to attach the arms to the erected pole sections (see Figure 6). All work was within the previously disturbed area and no impacts to the local bird species were noted.

Environmental Compliance:

All work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way above the substation site during the site visit was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements. New exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

The LSA EI was on-site during the site visit and no issues of environmental concerns were noted by the CPUC EM. A water truck was working on the access roads to control fugitive dust.

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. NTP #4 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures (Mission Viejo and City of Lake Forest) was issued by CPUC on April 19, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – NRG continued working on the 12 kV portion of the substation.



Figure 2 – A KGC crew worked with a small crane to set light poles within the substation site.



Figure 3 – A water truck was used to keep fugitive dust down within the substation site.



Figure 4 – The large mobile crane was staged at H-Structure 13 and will be prepared for setting the steel poles on June 15th.



Figure 5 – The crew at H-Structure 9 removed a portion of the rebar cage to fit it into the excavation.



Figure 6 – Workers used a crane and a man-lift to attach the arms to H-Structure 11.