



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 29, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #47, June 19 – June 25, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on June 22nd 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. The B-bank transformers are not energized and NRG crews worked on them during the site visit (see Figure 1). 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. 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.

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:

SCE removed the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native plant communities. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. Some additional plants have emerged and will need to be addressed.

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 H-structure nearest the substation site, Structure 13, has been completed and will be ready for conductor after the concrete has fully cured and is ready for the stress.
2. The crew at Structure 10 used a mobile crane to set the lower sections of the H-Structure (see Figure 2). The construction area was very dry and fugitive dust was an issue; however, no residences were in the immediate area.
3. Crews at H-Structure 8 prepared for concrete pouring by setting rebar cages and aligning the anchor bolts (see Figure 3).

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.

Warning signs have been placed on the gates leading into the habitat conservation area where mountain lions have been observed. The signs warn people of the hazards associated with mountain lions (see Figure 4).

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 crews worked on the B-bank transformers during the site visit.



Figure 2 – Arizona crews worked with a mobile crane to set the second base for H-Structure 10.



Figure 3 – Crews worked at H-Structure 8 to prepare for concrete pouring.



Figure 4 – A mountain lion warning sign was placed on the gate leading into the habitat conservation area.