Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: July 13, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #49, July 3 – July 9, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on July 5th 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. The underground cables that will connect the substation site to the SCE distribution system have been stubbed out at the 12 kV racks and will be connected to send electricity out from the substation. A crew worked with a reel truck on Definition Street to pull 12 kV conductor through the previously placed conduit (see Figure 1).

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 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.

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 was 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.

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Environmental Compliance:

The invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native plant communities, are re-sprouting and will need to be addressed (see Figure 2). Ideally, the plants would be removed before seed production to reduce the amount of seed in the soil for the next growing season. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area.

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. Only one crew was 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 Hill Crane crew worked at H-Structure 8 to set up the large mobile crane during the site visit (see Figure 3). The construction activities were within the disturbed area and no issues were noted. Once the crane has been prepared, crews will raise the steel towers for H-Structure 8 and attach the cross members.

2. H-Structures 10 and 9 have been raised and the cross members attached (see Figure 4). H-Structure 9 is in the foreground and H-Structure 10 is in the distance, overlooking the 241 toll road.

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 has been on-site for the construction activities and no issues of environmental concerns were noted 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. 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 – A crew worked with a reel truck to pull the underground cables that will take the 12 kV power to customers.

Figure 2 – Weeds have returned to the disturbed area on the 220 kV right-of-way.

Figure 3 – The Hill Crane crew worked to prepare the mobile crane at H-Structure 8.

Figure 4 – Raised H-Structures 9 and 10, looking to the north.
H-Structure 9 is in the foreground.