Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: August 17, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #54, August 7 – August 13, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on August 10th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were scheduled in the substation and on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit, but activities on the 66 kV right-of-way were cancelled due to rainfall in the morning. Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. The road contractor had an operator working with a skip loader to complete final grading of base material for the roads within the substation site in preparation for paving (see Figure 1). The roads around the edges of the site will receive base prior to the asphalt and the roads crossing through the site will receive an extra 2 inches of asphalt instead of base rock. A backhoe was used to place rock on the apron on the roads prior to placing asphalt. A water truck was on-site for the work during the site visit (see Figure 2). Between the light rain and the use of the water truck, no fugitive dust issues were noted during the site visit. No work was occurring on paving during the site visit and asphalt paving is schedule for Saturday.

2. No progress was observed on the water line leading into the substation site during the subject week. Sections of the open trench on the south end of the access road have been covered with steel plates for safety and to provide access. SCE engineers are working to address concerns on the water line so that work can resume.

3. Excess material, not used during the construction of the substation, was removed from the laydown area in the substation site.

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 with an orientation on visiting an energized station.

Environmental Compliance:

1. All operations observed by the CPUC EM were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

2. Straw waddles have been placed at the end of the driveway to prevent sediment from entering the public right-of-way and keep it away from storm drains during trenching for the water line.

3. SCE has removed many of the BMPs in order to complete the paving within the substation site. Sediment and erosion control devices were on-site to address any unexpected precipitation. No sedimentation or erosion was noted as a result of the recent rains.

4. The temporary generators outside MEER #1 were placed in a visquene lined berm to prevent the spilling of fuel.

5. The site vegetation has been removed from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) has not been on-site full-time. 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.

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:

1. 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. 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.

2. 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 is occurring 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. An SCE transmission line crew worked within the substation site and laydown area to load materials in preparation for work on other transmission lines. Storm and accident damage to other SCE infrastructure caused crews to work on these emergency repairs instead of on the Viejo 66 kV transmission line (see Figure 3).

2. The foundations within and adjacent to Olympiad Park have been poured and are awaiting the setting of H-structures (see Figure 4). Work may resume on erecting the steel poles the week of August 22nd. Access to the right-of-way passed through a portion of the park and SCE will restore the access according to the previous agreement with the park. Some of the small irrigation lines adjacent to Structure 2 have been damaged and the flow of water leaking from the system has created minor erosion down the access road. The concrete v-ditch adjacent to the access road was cleaned of debris and sediment. The concrete path crossed by the access route was damaged by the heavy equipment and may require repair and/or improvement.

Environmental Compliance:

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

SCE was notified by the CPUC EM about a small oil spill in the work area near Structure 1 the previous week and the spill has been cleaned up.

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 – The paving contractor spread base on the roadways within the substation prior to paving.

Figure 2 – A water truck was used to control dust during the site visit.

Figure 3 – An SCE transmission line crew worked to load equipment from the staging area.

Figure 4 – Completed foundations at Olympiad Park.