



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 24, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #55, August 14 – August 20, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on August 16th 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's skip loader was down for repair at the time of the site visit and crews worked to replace forms broken by vehicle traffic through the substation site (see Figure 1). The road contractor worked on Saturday to pave all the roads within the substation site (see Figure 2). Some of the corners were considered too sharp by SCE and the radius at these locations will be corrected. In addition to the asphalt repairs, the road contractor will be placing additional rock on the margins of the roads within the substation site.
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. 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.

4. The temporary generators outside MEER #1 have been 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, have been removed by SCE without disturbing the native species (see Figure 3). 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, 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 on Aliso Parkway installing a guard structure in preparation for upcoming stringing activities. Once the cross member was raised to the correct elevation, linemen secured it with cables (see Figure 4).
2. In order to work under an ISO outage and Caltrans approved closure of the 241 toll road, SCE prepared the H-structures between the substation and Structure 10 (see Figure 5). Travelers and ropes were installed on these structures in preparation for the pull. SCE and LSA biologists worked to clear the area between Structures 12 and 11 prior to any impacts with dropped conductor or pulling wires.

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 repaired forms damaged by vehicle traffic.



Figure 2 – Substation site after the paving on Saturday.



Figure 3 – The non-native plants were removed at the 220 kV structure above the substation site.



Figure 4 – An SCE transmission line crew worked to set the guard structure on Aliso Parkway.



Figure 5 – H-structure 11 prepared for Saturday pull across the 241 toll road.