Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: January 10, 2006

Subject: Weekly Report #71, January 1 - January 7, 2006.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on January 3rd and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). No weekly report or site visit was completed between December 17th and December 3rd due to the Christmas and New Year holiday.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

No construction activities within the substation site were observed during the site visit.

Summary of Activity:

1. 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.

2. The pipe for the water line for the planned hydrant near the substation site has been removed and the main driveway into the substation site has been backfilled with slurry. The trench will be re-excavated at a later time once the issues surrounding the water line have been resolved.

Environmental Compliance:

1. All operations observed by the CPUC EM were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements. The large spoils pile behind the Viejo Substation will need to be removed or stabilized. The CPUC EM previously recommended removal of the spoils in dry conditions to avoid tracking of mud or dripping of muddy water onto the public right-of-way.

2. Straw wattles 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. These Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been maintained prior to and after the recent rainfall. The main road was muddy at the time of the site visit due to rain over the weekend and on Monday (see Figure 1). SCE worked to minimize material tracked onto the public right-of-way and any dirt or mud on public roads was removed.

3. 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. However, some of this area has been previously disturbed by a crew placing communication conduit along the SCE right-of-way. The disturbance to the steep road leading from the main access road for the substation to the lattice towers has been disturbed by the communication trench and still needs to be rocked to address erosion. This crew is not part of the Viejo System Project. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The parts of the 220 kV right-of-way that have not recently been disturbed are showing natural revegetation by native species.

2. Several sensitive bird species have been 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 during the breading season.

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. Construction is spread between the Viejo Substation, through within Mission Viejo, to the Chiquita Substation (NTP #4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation and Structure 1 adjacent to the Chiquita Substation.

1. SCE transmission line crews worked to pull the final sections of conductor at the Chiquita Substation during the subject week. The old 66 kV steel poles have been wrecked out to make room for the east arms on the H-Structures and the stringing of the eastern circuit. The temporary steel pole adjacent to H-Structure 13 has been lowered and will be removed from the project for reuse (see Figure 2). This pole was used to allow use of the substation during the completion of work on the transmission line.

2. SCE has contracted a larger crane on-site for the removal of the old 66 kV steel poles that will require a greater reach to the pole site or have other complications that the previous crane could not address. Clean up and removal of the old 66 kV poles will involve cutting them into pieces and removing them off site. The steel poles that remain on the right-of-way will be removed once the right-of-way dries out enough to safely operate the crane and trucks (see Figure 3).

Environmental Compliance:

1. 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.

2. A street sweeper was working on the project during the subject week to address dirt tracked onto the public roadways.

3. BMPs have been implemented at the base of the guard structures to prevent the loose material from being transported onto the public right-of-way. The BMPs placed in v-ditches below the new pads have been maintained in preparation of winter rainfall.

4. The slope below the pads above the Viejo Substation have been covered with jute netting in preparation for restoration and native vegetation has emerged through the netting. The non-native species should be removed before they produce seed.

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. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs

Figure 1 – The main road to the substation has been backfilled and was muddy during the site visit.

Figure 2 – The temporary steel pole adjacent to H-Structure 13 was lowered and will be removed.

Figure 3 – The old steel poles have been lowered, but many are still on the right-of-way. These poles will be removed once the access roads dry out from the recent rains.