



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 3, 2006
Subject: Weekly Report #74, January 22 - January 28, 2006.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on January 22nd and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

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

Summary of Activity:

1. Minor clean-up activities in the substation are ongoing, as the substation construction is complete.
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 through the duration of the project. SCE continues to minimize material tracked onto the public right-of-way and any dirt or mud on public roads is removed.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No work was observed on the 220 kV portion of the transmission corridor during the subject week.

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 sections of the 220 kV right-of-way that have not recently been disturbed continue to show 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 breeding 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. Activities during the week included:

1. No Construction activities were observed during the site visit. Crews were taken off the Viejo Project in order to address emergency repairs in the area due to high winds. The CPUC EM toured the project route and inspected the right-of-way BMP's.
2. Several dismantled steel poles have been removed from the right-of-way (see Figure 1).
3. SCE subcontractor, Arizona Pipeline, continued work on dismantling old tower footings.
4. SCE crews plan to restore the right-of-way by doing some minor grading and installing v-ditches. Work that remains to be done includes removing the dismantled poles and restoring access roads.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE personnel were reminded by the CPUC EM to leave the orange resource exclusion fencing in place until all project activities were completed in these areas. SCE may decide to remove the fencing in order to complete restoration activities and will have an Environmental Monitor present during work in the sensitive resource areas (see Figure 2).
2. 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.
3. 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 – Dismantled steel poles are cut up and removed from the right-of-way.



Figure 2 – Orange exclusion fencing around sensitive habitat near the new Substation.