

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i>
	Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Compliance Status Report: 013 March 19, 2017

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/FEIS to mitigate or avoid impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC's third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. Photos of site observations are included in Attachment A of this report. A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTP) and Minor Project Refinement Requests (MPRRs) are provided in Attachments B and C, respectively.

This compliance status report covers construction activities from March 6 through March 19, 2017.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas under active construction, which included Transmission Lines (TL) 625B and 629E and Staging Yards. Areas of active and inactive construction were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project's MMCRP. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

TL 625B

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; conducted drilling, grouting, testing, and capping activities for micropile foundations; installed guy

anchors; grounded and spread overhead wire; and began grading the access road re-alignment at Pole Z272867 (See Photo 1—Attachment A).

Helicopter activities supporting construction along TL 625B commenced at the Sweetwater Staging and Fly Yard. During helicopter activities, water trucks were utilized to spray water in the work area to prevent dust emissions in accordance with APM AIR-02 (See Photo 2—Attachment A). In accordance with the Aviation Safety Plan and MM PHS-5, the designated area for helicopter landing and staging in the Japatul Spur Staging Yard remains delineated, with a ground crew member on-site to ensure safety of all construction personnel in the area.

Biological monitors were observed clearing sites prior to construction work, inspecting sites throughout the day, and monitoring ground disturbing activities in accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22. Construction crews were observed working within delineated workspaces in accordance with MM BIO-1, and ESA signs were observed along the alignment to notify construction personnel of special status plants and butterfly host plant species outside the work limits in accordance with MM BIO-13, MM BIO-14, and MM BIO-16. Construction crews were observed using trash bags to collect trash to be removed from sites daily in accordance with MM BIO-26. In accordance with MM BIO-28 and the Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP), approved avian biologists were observed monitoring work areas where active bird nests and nesting buffers were established (See Photo 3—Attachment A). Signage indicating nesting buffer areas were observed in place and avian biologists were observed at times halting work activities depending on nesting observations in accordance with the NBMP and ensuring that construction crews complied with buffers. Areas with nesting restrictions were communicated at the morning tailboards.

Archeological and Native American monitors were observed monitoring construction activities in work areas within the vicinity of previously recorded cultural resources and in areas identified as having a high potential to contain buried deposits in accordance with MM CUL-1, MM CUL-3, and APM CUL-04. Cultural ESA fencing was observed around the perimeter of workspaces and along the boundaries of access roads in accordance with Historic Properties Management Plan. At required pole sites, archeological and Native American monitors were observed monitoring constructing activities (See Photo 4—Attachment A).

Fire patrols were observed monitoring work activities along the project alignment, and construction crews were observed carrying the required activity-specific fire tools and equipment (a 5 gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher) in accordance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (MM FF-1).

Construction crews were observed maintaining erosion control BMPs, including waterbars and energy dissipation devices, in accordance with the project Erosion Control Plan (ECP) and SWPPP (MM HYD-1, MM BIO-7, and APM HYD-09). Topsoil was observed continuing to be salvaged and secured with erosion control BMPs (See Photo 5—Attachment A).

TL 629E

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; conducted drilling activities for micro pile foundations; assembled, staged, and installed direct-bury poles; installed guard structures; conducted overhead line work, which included stringing and sagging conductors and pulling fiber optic wire; conducted work at the bore pits, including installing fence, excavating the bore pits, installing shoring boxes and sawcutting duct bank trenches for the jack and bore; welding foundation caps and installing guy anchors.

Biological monitors were observed monitoring construction activities along the project alignment in accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22. During the bore pit operations, ramping was observed installed and inspected to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-23 (See Photo 6— Attachment A). Staged equipment along the right-of-way and at staging yards was observed to have bird deterrent devices, such as netting, to deter nesting in these areas. The CPUC environmental compliance monitor observed some reflective tape being used on equipment as a deterrent, but because the NBMP (MM BIO-28) does not specifically allow for this kind of deterrent material, upon discussion with the SDG&E LEI, the reflective tape was removed from equipment.

In accordance with MM PHS-2 and the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), construction crews were observed implementing spill prevention Best Management Practices (BMPs) including the use of drip pans beneath staged equipment, staging spill kits at work sites, and hazardous materials storage BMPs, including the use of secondary containment beneath hazardous materials at staging yards. Rock aprons and rattle plates and use of street sweepers were continued to be observed at staging yards to ensure project- related sediment was clear on paved roadways. Perimeter controls at pole replacement work sites and staging yards (i.e. fiber rolls and silt fencing) were observed in good condition.

Mitigation Measure Tracking

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FEIR/EIS in the Decision for the Power Line Replacement Projects, as adopted by the CPUC on May 26, 2016 (Decision D.16-05-038) and the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP).

Compliance Status

CPUC third-party environmental monitors observed overall compliance with mitigation measures throughout the reporting period.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS

SDG&E began construction activities associated with NTP-1 on September 23, 2016. All project activities are scheduled to be complete by 2020.

TL 625B

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; conducted drilling, grouting, testing, and capping activities for micropile foundations; installed guy anchors; grounded and spread overhead wire; and grading the road bed for the access road re-alignment at Pole Z272867. The estimated completion date is June 2017. Approximately 30% complete.

TL 629E

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; conducted drilling activities for micro pile foundations; assembled, staged, and installed direct-bury poles; installed guard structures; conducted overhead line work, which included stringing and sagging conductors and pulling fiber optic wire; conducted work at the bore pits, including installing fence, excavating the bore pits, installing shoring boxes and sawcutting duct bank trenches for the jack and bore; welding foundation caps and installing guy anchors. The estimated completion date is May 2017. Approximately 90% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: During access road widening at Z272867 (TL 625B), a grading crew was observed working within the delineated workspace in accordance with MM-BIO-1, and salvaging topsoil for future restoration use in accordance with MM-BIO-4.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: During helicopter staging and external load operations at Sweetwater Staging Area, a water truck was utilized to minimize dust emissions, and a ground crew member was present to ensure safety in accordance with MM-PHS-5

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: A qualified Avian Biologist was observed monitoring an active nest near Z272867 in accordance with MM BIO-28 and the Avian Protection Plan/Nesting Bird Management Plan.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: In accordance with MM CUL-1, cultural monitors were observed monitoring sites near ESAs along TL 625B.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: A construction worker observed installing fiber rolls (in addition to silt fencing) around the perimeter of a topsoil stockpile at Z272867 (TL 625B) in accordance with MM HYD-1 and MM BIO-4).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: The bore pit (Crestwood Substation to Z100035, underground) had an earthen ramp constructed to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-23.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	September 21, 2016, updated October 31, 2016	Construction activities associated with TL 625B and TL 629E	Y
CPUC-002	March 15, 2017	Construction activities associated with TL 6931	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	10/5/16, Revised 10/18/16	Request for Modifications to the Anderson, Merrigan and Japatul Spur Staging Yards	Approved	10/21/16
002	2/21/16	Modifications to TL 625B and TL 629E	Approved, with Conditions	2/10/17