

California Public Utilities Commission *Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program* 

East County (ECO) Substation Project

**Compliance Status Report: 035** 

August 3, 2014

#### SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation Project. 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/EIS to mitigate or avoid significant 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. This compliance status report covers construction activities from July 21, 2014, through August 3, 2014.

### MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

#### Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations along the right-of-way associated with the 138 kV Underground Transmission Line, 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, East County Substation, SWPL Loop-In and Boulevard Substation Rebuild. Areas of active and inactive construction within the project limits were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project's MMCRP. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

#### **Implementation Actions**

#### 138 kV Underground Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of repair and maintenance of erosion control devices along the right-of-way (ROW); completed pulling cable between vaults; pulling

fiber optic cable between vaults; splicing cable; mandrelling and adjusting manhole rings at vaults; and paving portions of Old Highway 80 and Carrizo Gorge Road.

During this reporting period, CPUC third-party monitors observed construction crews staging equipment used in foundation hole drilling at the Domingo Lake Construction Yard. Dust control measures outlined in MM-AQ-1 and MM-BIO-4a were observed being implemented and effective. Track-out measures consisting of rumble plates and rock aprons were in place and maintained, and traffic control crews were observed directing project and local traffic with pilot cars and flagging.

Biological monitors were on site to ensure construction activities remained within the approved work limits and to monitor for sensitive wildlife species (MM-BIO-1a and MM-BIO-1c). All excavations were inspected daily prior to construction activities and throughout the day to ensure that no wildlife species had become entrapped in accordance with MM-BIO-7e.

Erosion control measures consisting of straw wattles, silt fence and gravel bags are being maintained along the ROW in accordance with the SWPPP and MM-HYD-1. Staged and active stationary equipment featured containment as required by MM-HAZ-1a and a concrete washout basin was observed in good condition (See Attachment A- Photo 1).

Per the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan, fire tools were observed at all construction sites as required by MM-FF-1.

#### 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of breaking forms, drilling, and placing concrete for foundations; continued patch work on foundations; erecting steel structures; conducting maintenance and repair of the erosion and sediment control devices; conducting spoil removal from the foundation drilling sites; and finish-grading of steel pole pads.

In accordance with MM-BIO-1c, biological monitors were on site, and trenches and excavations were observed covered to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM-BIO-7a. Topsoil was observed staged along the limits of work that will be utilized for restoration activities in accordance with MM-BIO-1d. Drip pan containment bins were observed beneath equipment staged along the ROW in accordance with MM-HAZ-1a and spill kits were accessible in case of hazardous materials leak.

Water trucks were being utilized to minimize fugitive dust emissions in accordance with the Dust Control Plan and MM-BIO-4a (See Attachment A- Photo 2). Trucks used during spoil removal associated with excavation were observed covering loads prior to entering publicly accessed roads in accordance with MM-BIO-4a and MM-AQ-1.

Erosion and sediment controls included the use of straw wattles along the work area perimeter and hydro-mulch on graded slopes (MM HYD-1), and fire tools and water supply were observed on site

(FF-1) (See Attachment A- Photo 3). A rattle plate remains at the access road ingress/egress to Old Highway 80, and the paved highway was observed free of track-out in accordance with MM AQ-1, MM BIO-4a, and MM HYD-1.

#### East County Substation

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of installing the series capacitor bank; transporting spoil for rough-grading of the southeast corner of the 500 kV pad; maintenance and repair of installed sediment and erosion control devices; construction of the permanent water tank south of the 500 kV pad, cleanup and preparation for subcontractor demobilization; and completion of the fence around the series capacitor bank amongst other punchlist items.

A fire patrol was on site and actively checking all entering personnel for SWEAP training stickers and required Pulaski's, shovel, and 5-gallon water supply in accordance with MM-FF-1. Throughout work sites within the substation, fire tools were set out at individual areas of work and attached to equipment in accordance with the Construction Fire Plan and MM-FF-1.

Erosion control measures consisting of straw wattle, silt fencing, and extensive hydromulched slopes were observed to be in good condition in accordance with MM-HYD-1. Staged equipment was equipped with drip pan containment in accordance with HAZ-1a (See Attachment- Photo 4). Hazardous materials staged on site were placed within proper containment and labeled in accordance with MM-HAZ-1a. No smoking signs were clearly marked and adjacent to the hazardous waste areas.

#### Boulevard Substation Rebuild

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of installation of relay panels and equipment in the control shelter; continued erection of steel structures, setting equipment, and installing bus; and installation of the ground grid.

At the Boulevard substation rebuild site construction, crews were observed conducting framing activities around the 69 kV circuit breakers and building foundations. Staged generators and equipment were equipped with drip pan containment (MM HAZ-1a) (See Attachment- Photo 5), and portable facilities were tied down and placed with in secondary containment. Trash was not observed on site during this reporting period, and trash storage was covered to minimize wildlife attractants in accordance with BIO-7d.

A spill kit was on site in the case of a hazardous materials spill in compliance with MM HAZ-1a (See Attachment A- Photo 6). Perimeter sediment controls in the form of silt fence and straw wattles were in good working condition in accordance with MM HYD-1, and visual screening along the perimeter of the work area was in good condition in accordance with VIS-3a.

#### 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/FEIS for the ECO Substation Project, as adopted by the CPUC on April 19, 2012 (Decision 12-04-022).

#### Compliance

No non-compliances or deviations occurred during this reporting period.

#### **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS**

#### **Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site**

Construction activities associated with foundation and concrete forms, drilling pier foundations, and installing circuit breakers and the associated wiring continued during this reporting period and are 72% complete.

#### ECO Substation Site Construction

Crews continue completing activities associated with the concrete form building, drilling pier foundations and installation of the ground grid and electrical system. Construction at ECO substation is 97% complete.

#### 138 kV Underground Construction

Construction crews have completed 39 vaults on non-federal land (100%) and 4 of 5 vaults on federal land. 99% of trenches have been excavated and backfilled on non-federal land and 98% of trenches have been excavated and backfilled on federal land. 48% of the cable has been installed on non-federal land.

#### 138 kV Overhead Construction

Fifty-three steel pole pads/spur roads are completed (100%), 52 (of 53) pole foundations are complete, and 17 (of 53) poles have been erected.

#### SWPL Loop-In

All SWPL Loop-In components have been completed as of June 2014. Seventeen structure foundations have been completed, seventeen poles are erected and 100% of the wire has been installed.

### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

*ECO Substation 500 kV and 230/138 kV Yards* – SDG&E began construction activities in March 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.

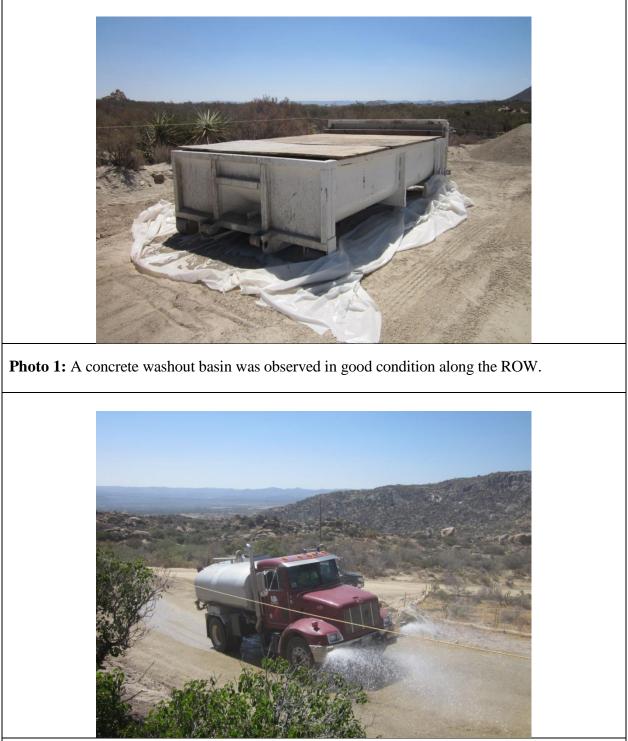
*138 kV Underground Transmission Line* – SDG&E began construction activities in October 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.

*138 kV Overhead Transmission Line* – SDG&E began construction activities in November 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.

**Boulevard Substation Rebuild** – SDG&E began construction in December 2012 and is anticipated to complete construction in December 2014.

SWPL Loop-In: - Construction of all SWPL Loop-In structures were completed in June 2014.

## ATTACHMENT A Photos



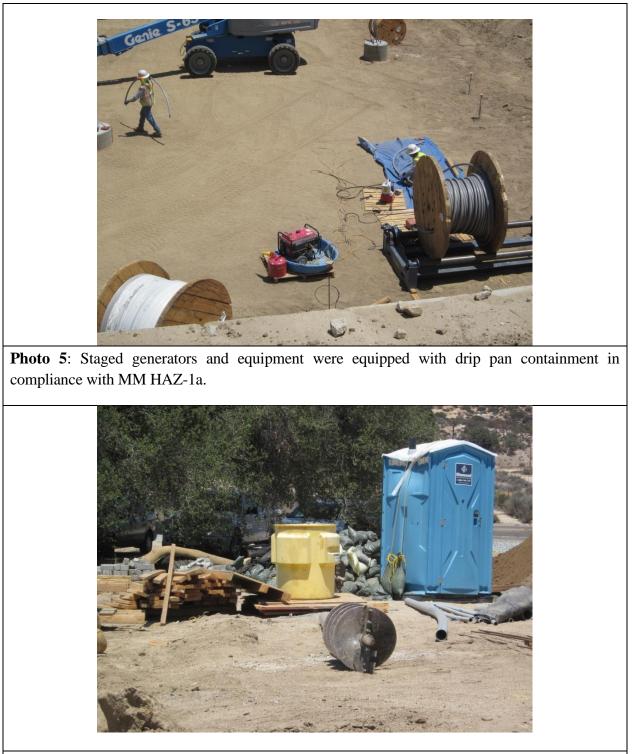
**Photo 2:** Water trucks being utilized to minimize fugitive dust emissions in accordance with the Dust Control Plan and MM-BIO-4a.



**Photo 3:** Erosion and sediment controls included the use of straw wattles along the work area perimeter and hydro-mulch on graded slopes (MM HYD-1), and fire tools and water supply were observed on site (FF-1).



**Photo 4:** Staged equipment was equipped with drip pan containment in accordance with HAZ-1a.



**Photo 6:** Spill kit observed on site in the case of a hazardous materials spill in compliance with MM HAZ-1a.

# ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
BLM-001	February 11, 2013	A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on lands administered by the BLM	Y
CPU -001	November 30, 2012	Abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site	Y
CPUC-002	February 1, 2013	Construction of a new substation (a 500 kV yard and a 230/138 kV yard)	Y
CPUC-003	February 1, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-004	March 4, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-005	May 21, 2013	Construction Yards	Y
CPUC-006	July 2, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line along Southern Access Road	Y
CPUC-007	July 30, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line within Old Highway 80 and Carrizo Gorge Road	Y
CPUC-008	August 2, 2013	Construction activities associated with the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Y
CPUC-009	September 25, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Boulevard Substation to 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-010	October 17, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Carrizo Gorge Road to Steel Pole 91	Y
CPUC-011	November 5, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-012	November 19, 2013	Fault Investigations at the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) Loop-In	Y
CPUC-013	December 4, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line Steel Pole- 105B and Steel Pole- 108A	Y
CPUC-014	March 18, 2014	Construction of Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in to connect the existing 500 kV SWPL transmission line to the ECO Substation site	Y

# ATTACHMENT C Minor Project Refinement Requests

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	January 25, 2013	Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	February 7, 2013
002	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Domingo Lake and Jewel Valley Construction Yards	Approved	May 20, 2013
003	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard	Approved	May 20, 2013
004	May 17, 2013	Adjustments to the Southern Access Road and 138 kV Overhead and Underground Transmission Line	Approved	June 26, 2013
005	June 27, 2013	Adjustments to the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Approved	July 26, 2013
006	July 30, 2013	Adjustments to the 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Approved	September 23, 2013
007	August 16, 2013	Relocation of Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	August 22, 2013
008	August 20, 2013	Construction Water Use	Approved	October 1, 2013
009	November 22, 2013	Additional Temporary Work Space for Fence Replacement	Approved	November 26, 2013
010	December 19, 2013	Access Road and Work Space Refinements at Steel Pole 63 and 64	Approved	January 14, 2014
011	January 16, 2014	Temporary Meeting Location for Material and Equipment	Approved	January 22, 2014
012	February 27, 2014	Work Space Refinements to the Southwest Powerlink	Approved	March 11, 2014
013	April 4, 2014	Additional Temporary Work Space at 138kV Overhead Transmission Line	Approved	April 17, 2014
014	June 11, 2014	Amended Construction Water Supply Plan	Approved	June 12, 2014