

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

South of Palermo 115 kV Reinforcement Project

**Compliance Status Report: 12** 

June 30, 2019

## SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Initial Study (FIS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the South of Palermo 115 kV Reinforcement 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 FIS/MND 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. Summaries of the Notices to Proceed (NTP) and Minor Project Refinements (MPR) are provided in Attachments B and C, respectively.

This compliance status report covers construction activities from June 1 through June 30, 2019.

## CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS

PG&E began construction activities associated with NTP-1 on July 1, 2018. Additional construction activities associated with NTP-2 were started concurrently on September 6, 2018. Construction of additional project elements associated with NTP-3 were started on March 27, 2019. All project activities are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2021.

Tower crews continued installing foundations along the South of Palermo Line. Transmission line crews continued working on Wild Fire Safety Inspections. The civil crews continued the preparation of all-weather locations on the remainder of the South of Palermo Line.

## MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

## Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party EM conducted site observations in areas under active construction. 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

Activities observed during this period included earthwork for drilling and further construction on foundation sites (see photo 1).

The CPUC EM observed sensitive resource signs clearly marked in accordance with APM BIO-12. Vernal features were marked clearly with sensitive resource area signage in accordance with APM BIO-3. Elderberry bushes were also marked with sensitive resource signs in order to avoid impacts to Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle in accordance with APM BIO-8.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as silt fencing were observed in good condition in accordance with APM HYDRO-1. Spoil piles were located and maintained in accordance with the project SWPPP and APM HYDRO-1 (see photo 2).

During this reporting period, construction staff ceased project activities in the area where a baby and mother deer were found until the deer left the area, in accordance with APM BIO-4. The CPUC EM verified that bird surveys were conducted prior to construction. During this reporting period, an active killdeer nest was identified on the site. No work occurred in the area and a no-disturbance buffer was marked around the nest in accordance with the minimization measures detailed in APM BIO-11. Survey and monitoring for the giant garter snake (GGS) continued in areas with appropriate habitat, as required by APM BIO-9 (see photo 3).

The CPUC EM verified with biological monitors onsite that active bird nests were monitored and following successful fledging, the inactive nests were removed where work activities were scheduled to occur, in accordance with APM BIO-11.

The CPUC EM also observed water trucks on access roads to control and suppress dust as required by APM AQ-2 (see photo 4).

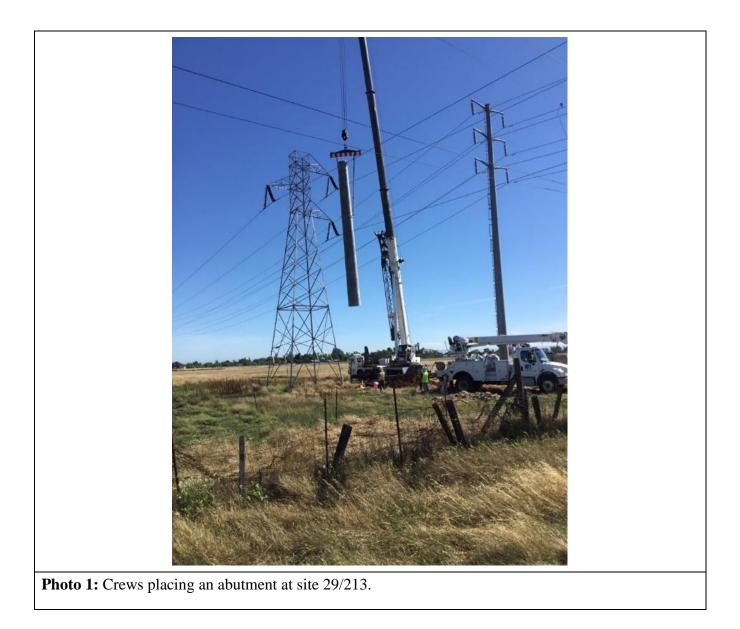
#### Mitigation Measure Tracking

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking table. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FIS/MND in the Decision for the Power Line Reinforcement Project, as adopted by the CPUC on May 16, 2018 (Decision 18-05-014) and the MMCRP.

#### **Compliance** Status

No minor deviations or non-compliances were issued this reporting period.

## ATTACHMENT A Photos





**Photo 2:** Dirt spoil pile staged outside of clearly marked vernal features in accordance with SWPPP BMPs.



**Photo 3:** Crews working within giant garter snake (GGS) habitat with proper minimization and monitoring measures being implemented, including having a biological monitor on site during work, in accordance with APM BIO-9.



**Photo 4:** The CPUC EM observed a water truck at Pull Site (PS) 21/151 to suppress fugitive dust in accordance with APM AQ-2.

# ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)		
CPUC - 001	June 14, 2018	Construction activities at select locations along the Bogue Sub-Line Segment, the Pease Sub-Line Segment, and the South of Palermo Line.	Y		
CPUC - 002	September 6, 2018	Construction activities which would take place concurrently with work covered under NTP-1 at select locations along the Bogue Sub Line Segment, the Pease Sub Line Segment, and the South of Palermo Line.	Y		
CPUC - 003	March 27, 2019	Construction activities at select locations along the Rio Oso Sub Segment, the Pease Sub Line Segment, and the South of Palermo Line.	Y		

# ATTACHMENT C Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	July 09, 2018	Requested to add an approximately 400-by-600 foot landing zone/pull site along the Pease Sub-Line Segment and also the relocation of an approximately 200-by-200 foot landing zone along the Bogue Sub-Line Segment.	Approved	07/19/18