

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i>
	Ten West Link Transmission Line Project Compliance Status Report: 05 March 31, 2023

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures (MMs) set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Appendix 1C, Supplemental California Public Utilities Commission Information, for the Ten West Link Transmission Line 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 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Appendix 1C 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 Ten West Link Transmission Line Project (project), a summary of site inspections conducted by CPUC’s third-party monitors, the compliance status of MMs required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. Photos of site observations are provided as Attachment A of this report. Summaries of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) and Minor Project Refinements (MPRs) are provided as Attachments B and C, respectively.

This compliance status report covers construction activities from March 1 through March 31, 2023.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS

DCR Transmission LLC (DCRT) began construction activities associated with NTP-1 in January 2022. Activities were limited to 2 days of geotechnical investigations in January (January 10 and 11, 2022) and 1 day in June (June 6, 2022). In November 2022, DCRT began full construction activities as authorized by NTP-2. All project activities are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.

During March 2023, activities included civil work, pad build up, road and tower pad maintenance, botany and nesting bird surveys, anchor installation, staging materials and equipment, drilling, excavating, guard structure construction, and tower assembly.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site visits in areas under active construction to verify implementation of the MMs stipulated in the project’s MMCRP. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and the applicable Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and MMs were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

During this reporting period, the CPUC environmental compliance monitor observed environmental monitors on site implementing measures intended to avoid resource impacts. During site inspections, weed wash stations were present and utilized at dirt access roads in accordance with Best Management Practice (BMP) BIO-12 and LUPA BIO-10, (see Photo 1 in Attachment A). The environmental compliance monitor observed sensitive plant ESA buffers present in accordance with BMP BIO-31 (see Photo 2 in Attachment A).

Mitigation Measure Tracking

MMs applicable to construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC monitor reports. A complete list of MMs and APMs is included in the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report; in the Decision as adopted by the CPUC on November 4, 2021 (Decision 21-11-003); and in the MMCRP.

Compliance Status

No non-compliance reports were issued during the reporting period.

Table 1. Non-Compliance Reports

NCR	Infraction	Issuing Agency	Applicable MM/Document	Date Reported	Date Resolved
001	Vehicle travel outside LOD at Structure 422 (Refer to BLM NCR No. 2)	BLM/CIC	POD Appendix B-2: APM-BIO-02; POD Section 3.1.10.2: Access Roads in California Sand Dune Habitat; Appendix B-2, APM-BIO-17	11/16/22	11/16/22

Table 1. Non-Compliance Reports

NCR	Infraction	Issuing Agency	Applicable MM/Document	Date Reported	Date Resolved
002	Structure 398 clearing vegetation within Mojave fringe-toad lizard habitat without presence of a biological monitor	CPUC/Dudek	POD Appendix B-2 and Appendix F-5: Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard Avoidance and Clearance Plan	11/17/22	11/18/22
003	404–405 snub site off right-of-way travel	DCRT	POD Appendix B-2, Mitigation Measures: MM WIL-CEQA-11, MM NO-CEQA-2, BMP TT-08; California Cultural Resource Monitoring and Discovery Plan Section 4.4	1/13/23	1/13/23
004	Uncovered roll off bin with food trash at the Hobsonway Laydown yard	CPUC/Dudek	POD Appendix B-2, Mitigation Measures: APM BIO-5, APM BIO-6, and LUPA- BIO-14	2/14/23	2/16/23

NCR = Non-Compliance Report; MM = Mitigation Measure; BMP = Best Management Practice; LOD = limits of disturbance; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CIC = Compliance Inspection Contractor; POD = Plan of Development; APM = Applicant Proposed Measure; CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission.

ATTACHMENT A

Photos



Photo 1: Crew members using weed wash station prior to entering the ROW in accordance with BPM BIO-12 and LUPA BIO-10.



Photo 2: Entrance blocked off to tower 413 due to an ESA present in accordance with BMP BIO-31.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Sensitive plants within 100' of access roads or work areas marked with a yellow pin flag.



Photo 4: Drip pan installed under gas can and power equipment.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Anchor crew working inside LOD.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

Notice to Proceed No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC-001	12/02/2021	Geotechnical investigations	Y
CPUC-002	06/01/2022	All construction activities	Y

CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

MPRR No.	Subject	Submittal Date	CPUC Approval Date	Status
MPRR 001	POD changes – Refinements to the POD since February 2021	05/23/22	06/01/22	Complete
MPRR 002	Blythe Laydown Yard – Add drawing for newly identified laydown yard location, which has been selected by the Construction Contractor	08/03/22	08/16/22	Complete
MPRR 003	The water needs for the project need to be refined, as it is anticipated that the volume analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be exceeded during construction	08/16/22	N/A	Withdrawn/ revised
MPRR 003 Rev 01	The water needs for the project need to be refined, as it is anticipated that the volume analyzed in the Final EIS will be exceeded during construction	12/20/22	N/A	Under review
MPRR 004	Incorporation of all outstanding mapping changes in the California project area, includes water withdrawal location from the Palo Verde Irrigation District canal along 22nd Avenue/Buck Boulevard	10/07/22	10/24/22	Complete
MPRR 005	Refine construction drawings to reflect minor mapping changes negotiated with private landowners	12/07/22	12/20/22	Complete
MPRR 006	Refine construction drawings to reflect the removal of Water Source No. 8: Hydrant Water to be replaced by a hydrant off Mesa Drive, and removal of Water Source No. 7: Hydrant to be replaced by City of Blythe hydrant location	12/13/22	N/A	Pending DCRT review of Dudek comments sent 12/13/2022
MPRR 007	Request to allow project security personnel to carry firearms	12/16/22	N/A	CPUC denied request 1/13/23
MPRR 008	Avian Plan / Bat Roosting mitigation change	3/27/23	Pending	Under Review

MPRR = Minor Project Refinement Request; CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission; MPRR = POD = Plan of Development; N/A = not applicable; DCRT = DCR Transmission LLC.