

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

Tie Line (TL) 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project

Compliance Status Report: 011

July 20, 2014

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the TL 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement 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 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. This compliance status report covers construction activities from July 7, 2014 through July 20, 2014.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas of active construction. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

Staging Yards

Construction crews were observed delivering and staging construction equipment and materials at the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Staging Yards during this reporting period. Crews were also observed demobilizing micropile drilling equipment at the Santa Ysabel and Warnock Yards.

Wire Stringing

Construction crews were observed stringing, sagging, pulling, clipping-in, and dead-ending conductor wire (see Photo 1—Attachment A).

Micropile Drill Sites

At micropile drill sites, construction crews were observed mobilizing/setting-up at pole locations, drilling, grouting, and strength testing micro pile foundations.

Pole Installation:

Crews were observed setting or transferring bases/tops, installing hardware, removing poles from service (see Photo 2—Attachment A), framing 12kV cross arms, re-framing structures, installing ground rods, and removing pole butts.

Access Roads, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Other Activities

Construction crews were observed trimming vegetation along overland travel paths and trimming trees under portions of the tie- line (see Photo 3—Attachment A) and inspecting/maintaining BMPs.

Mitigation Implementation

During wood pole replacement activities, CPUC third-party monitors observed implementation of Mitigation Measures (MMs) and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) designed to prevent or mitigate impacts to environmental resources.

Overhead wire activities such as installing in-line disconnects (see Photo 1—Attachment A) continued along Creelman Lane this reporting period. During these activities, construction crews were observed utilizing traffic control measures around work areas including signage, flags, cones and traffic directors in accordance with APM TRA-1.

Crews were observed continuing to adhere to measures in the Project Fire Plan (APM HAZ-2) during all project activities. During vegetation and tree trimming work beneath the tie-line alignment, biological monitors were observed on site in accordance with MM BIO-2 and a tree trimming crew member was appointed the "designated fire watch." A water truck was located within two minutes travel time during tree chipping (APM HAZ-2) and other fire response vehicles, such as a Type 6 fire engine (see Photo 4—Attachment A) were mobilized nearby work activities. Fire equipment, such as pulaskis, shovels, fire extinguishers, and 5-gallon water pumps were observed affixed to vehicles and/or carried in all project vehicles.

Biological monitors were observed monitoring other construction activities and ensuring crews avoided areas with sensitive resources. In accordance with MM BIO-4, monitors were observed conducting preactivity surveys for nests and nesting birds within 100 feet of proposed work areas and within 72 hours of initiating construction activities (see Photo 5—Attachment A). Nest buffers were observed marked with green stakes (a standard project indicator for nest avoidance) along Creelman Lane and aquatic resources monitors were observed monitoring work activity at pole locations where adjacent jurisdictional waterways were present (MM-HYD-4). During this reporting period, crews responsible for micropile foundation installation were observed demobilizing equipment from the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Yards. Rock aprons were observed effectively preventing sediment track-out during these activities and other Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) continued to be observed at the Yards, including secondary containment under portable toilets and generators, and visqueen plastic under staged construction equipment (see Photo 6—Attachment A). Other best practices, such as covering equipment or staged materials (such as steel poles) with netting to prevent wildlife entrapment or nesting activity was observed at the Santa Ysabel Yard (see Photo 7—Attachment A). Construction- related dirt/mud track-out onto Highway-78 was also not observed during project activities (see Photo 8—Attachment A).

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 MND for the Tie-Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project, as adopted by the CPUC on February 5, 2014 (Decision D.14-02-04).

Compliance Status

CPUC third-party monitors observed overall compliance with mitigation measures throughout the reporting period. All observations that had potential to become an area of concern if left uncorrected were addressed on-site. No compliance issues were reported during this reporting period.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Staging Yards

Staging Yards are approximately 100% complete.

Wood Pole Replacement

Approximately 100% of micro-pile foundations have been drilled and 100% have been grouted.

Micropile capping is 100% complete and testing is 100% complete.

Approximately 99% of hole excavations (for directly embedded poles) have been completed.

Power line pole construction (setting bases) is 97% complete.

Temporary Pole installation is 100% complete.

Wire pulling and tensioning is 63% complete.

Sagging of conductor lines is 60% complete.

Underground distribution line installation is 80% complete.

Best Management Practices

Approximately 99% of SWPPP BMPs have been installed along the project right-of-way.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Tie-Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project (CPUC NTP No. 001) – SDG&E began clearing activities at the project site on February 19, 2014. All project activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014.

ATTACHMENT A Photos

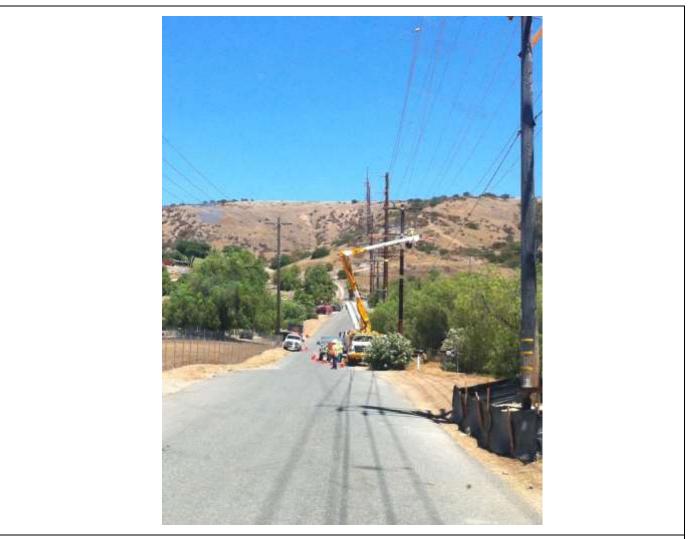


Photo 1: Construction crews were observed conducting overhead wire activities along Creelman Lane, which included installing in-line disconnects (pictured above). Traffic control measures including signage, flags, cones and traffic directors were implemented around work areas in accordance with APM TRA-1.



Photo 2: Crews were observed removing older wooden poles from service (left pole).



Photo 3: Tree trimming crews were observed trimming trees between P151 and P152 beneath the tieline alignment. Biological monitors were on-site during these activities in accordance with MM-BIO-2.



Photo 4: During micropile activities, in accordance with the Project Fire Plan and APM HAZ-2, fire suppression tools (pulaski, shovel, fire extinguisher, and 5-gallon water pump) were observed staged at work locations and carried within project vehicles. "Fire watch" individuals and response vehicles (such as a Type 6 fire engine, above) were designated and mobilized for project activities along the right-of-way.



Photo 5: Biological monitors were observed conducting nesting bird surveys prior to work activities in accordance with MM BIO-4.



Photo 6: Visqueen was staged under equipment at the Santa Ysabel Yard in order to prevent any potential equipment leaks from contaminating soils.



Photo 7: Netting was placed over openings of staged steel poles at the Santa Ysabel Yard in order to prevent nesting activity or wildlife entrapment.



Photo 8: The intersection of a project access road and Highway 78 remained free of sediment track-out in accordance with the SWPPP.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	February 14, 2014	Construction of the Tie Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project	Y

ATTACHMENT C Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	4/9/14	Structure P5- Change from Micro Pile to Direct Bury	Approved	4/10/14
002	4/18/14	Overland Travel	Approved	4/23/14
003	4/24/14	Modification to Stringing Site No. 5	Approved	4/29/14
004	4/30/14	Request for Additional Turnaround Areas	Approved	5/06/14
005	5/2/14	Modification to Stringing Site No. 4	Approved	5/06/14
006	5/2/14	Request for Additional Staging Areas	Approved	5/07/14
007	5/6/14	Use of Existing Access Roads	Approved	5/12/14
008	5/22/14	Temporary Work Space Modifications at Stringing Site No. 14 and No. 15	Approved	6/2/14
009	6/6/14	Overland Travel to Pole Location 161	Approved	6/10/14
010	6/3/14	Modification of Stringing Sites 20 and 21, Additional Turnaround, Overland Travel, and Work at P151b	Approved	6/11/14
011	6/20/14	Overhead Work and Overland Travel Access to Structure No. D193	Approved	7/10/14
012	6/25/14	New Stringing Sites 15A and 15B and Temporary Block Anchor	Approved	7/10/14
013	7/7/14	Modifications to Stringing Site 17 and 18	Approved	7/09/14