

	<p>California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></p>
	<p>Tie Line (TL) 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project</p>
	<p>Compliance Status Report: 004 April 13, 2014</p>

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 March 31 through April 13, 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

Delivery and organization of material/poles at the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Staging Yards continued this reporting period.

Micropile Pole Replacement Sites

Crews were observed conducting the following activities associated with micro pile sites: setting up and demobilizing equipment at pole locations (see Photo 1—Attachment A), micropile drilling, micropile strength tests, grouting, and capping foundations (see Photo 2—Attachment A).

Conventional Pole Drill Sites

Crews were observed conducting the following activities associated with conventional pole replacement sites: machine auguring pole holes, hand digging pole holes, removing pole butts, and setting bases/slurrying pole holes with concrete.

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

Crews were observed preparing for wire spreading and setting pole tops (see Photo 3—Attachment A), vegetation trimming (including tree trimming) along access roads and at pole locations sites (see Photo 4—Attachment A), compacting spoils on existing access roads, installing or maintaining BMPs at pole location sites (silt fencing, straw wattles, covering and securing spoils with visqueen, etc.), and refreshing access roads.

Mitigation Implementation

Wood Pole Replacement

During wood pole replacement activities, CPUC third-party monitors observed biological, archaeological, and aquatic monitoring as required under mitigation measures (MM) BIO-2, MM CUL-1, and MM HYD-4 (see Photo 5—Attachment A). In accordance with MM BIO-4, prior to activities commencing at work sites, CPUC-approved biological monitors conducted nesting bird surveys and staked buffers around active nest areas for avoidance. Nest buffers were delineated with wooden stakes that were painted green and displayed the words “do not enter without bio.” CPUC-approved biological monitors were observed sweeping for nests immediately prior to work occurring in areas (see Photo 6—Attachment A) and monitored buffer zones to ensure full avoidance by crews. During infrequent instances where activities were performed at pole location sites not included on the work plan of the day, CPUC third-party monitors verified time and currency of nesting bird surveys.

In order to minimize fire risk during pole replacement activities or travel on access roads, crews were observed hauling water buffalos behind vegetation disposal equipment during vegetation trimming activities (see Photo 4—Attachment A) and with traditional pole hole auguring equipment (see Photo 5—Attachment A) in accordance with the project Fire Plan (Applicant Proposed Measure (APM) HAZ-2). Several fire extinguishers were observed at pole location sites during drilling, where equipment with internal combustion engines were used and other equipment such as backpack pumps and shovels were observed mounted on vehicles and/or available at each work site.

Third-party monitors observed crews preparing poles for wire spreading along Creelman Lane this reporting period. In accordance with APM TRA-1, flaggers and signage were utilized to direct traffic around equipment partially impeding road access.

In accordance with the project SWPPP and APM-HYD-1, erosion control BMPs such as silt fencing were observed being maintained at all sites and water bars were observed along the access road to appropriately divert running water. Crews were observed staging equipment on visqueen to ensure containment of any potential mechanical leaks while not in use at pole location sites. CPUC third-party monitors continued to observe track-out cleaning activities as required by the project SWPPP (see Photo 7—Attachment A).

Work was observed occurring adjacent to residential areas this reporting period. In accordance with MM NOI-2, CPUC third-party monitors observed crews erecting a sound wall adjacent to work sites utilizing micropile technology to reduce noise .

With the exception of the minor deviation reported below, crews were observed adhering to requirements to stay within approved access roads to pole location sites. Third-party monitors observed an increase in further delineation of approved work areas and access to ensure crews were aware of authorized spaces. Additionally, signs stating “NO PROJECT ACCESS” were observed posted on existing roads that could be mistaken for approved project access roads (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 to the LEI on site by the CPUC third-party monitor.

One Level 1 Minor Deviation was reported by SDG&E during this reporting period. On April 9, construction crews temporarily drove off an approved access road near location P29. Upon discovery, of the tracks, SDG&E reported the off-road travel to the CPUC. Temporary impacts to disturbed coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitats of approximately 240 square feet were reported. On April 11, T-post staking and roping was added to the area in order to more clearly delineate the approved access area.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Staging Yards

Staging Yards are approximately 90 percent complete.

Wood Pole Replacement

Approximately 28 percent of micro-pile foundations drilling and 23 percent grouting have been completed.

Capping and testing is 14 percent complete.

Approximately 38 percent of hole excavations (for directly embedded poles) have been completed.

Power line pole construction (setting bases) started on March 31, 2014 and is 8 percent complete.

Best Management Practices

Approximately 55 percent 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: Crews were observed setting up drill platforms for micropile sites (Above, Location 30). Silt fencing was observed installed and intact in accordance with the Project SWPPP/APM HYD-1. Portable restrooms were observed staged on secondary containment in accordance the Project SWPPP.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: Finished/Capped Micro Pile foundation. Silt fencing was observed installed and intact in accordance with the Project SWPPP/APM HYD-1 and crews were observed cleaning all excess grout with shovels and buckets. Due to this location being situated near a jurisdictional waterway, an aquatic resource monitor was observed present during activities in accordance with MM HYD-4 and the Section 401 Certification.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Traffic Control along Creelman Lane was observed being implemented in accordance with MM TRA-1 during pole topping/ wire spreading activities.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Mowing and vegetation trimming was observed along access roads. Crews were observed towing a water buffalo behind vegetation containment equipment to ensure fire prevention measures were being adhered to in accordance with the Project Fire Plan/APM HAZ-2.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Crews observed avoiding environmentally sensitive areas marked with yellow rope in accordance with MM CUL-1. A CPUC-approved archaeological monitor was observed present during ground disturbance in this area in accordance with MM CUL-3 and a CPUC-approved biological monitor was observed monitoring nesting bird activity in accordance with MM BIO-4. Dirt spoils from traditional drilling were observed placed adjacent to the hole and contained with on-site silt fencing in accordance with the project SWPPP/APM HYD-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: CPUC-approved biological monitors were observed conducting nesting bird surveys prior to work occurring at pole locations in accordance with MM BIO-4.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 7: Points of ingress and egress to project pole locations were observed free of track-out in accordance with the Project SWPPP.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 8: In order to facilitate awareness of approved access roads, signage and red-colored posts were placed in areas that could be mistaken for project roads indicating “NO PROJECT ACCESS.”

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