



September 5, 2023

Andrew Chan
Project Manager
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Monthly Report Summary #69 for the South Orange County Reliability Enhancement (SOCRE) Project

Dear Mr. Chan:

This report summarizes the compliance monitoring activities that occurred during the period from **July 1 to 31, 2023**, for the South Orange County Reliability Enhancement (SOCRE) Project in Orange County, California. Compliance monitoring was performed once between July 1 and 31, 2023, to ensure all project-related activities conducted by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) and its contractors were in compliance with the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the SOCRE Project, as adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on December 15, 2016.

The CPUC has issued the following Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the SOCRE Project to SDG&E:

- NTP-1 (October 13, 2017): Geotechnical investigation and hazardous materials abatement at the future San Juan Capistrano Substation.
- NTP-2 (December 18, 2017): Conduct site preparation activities and construction staging at the future San Juan Capistrano Substation.
- NTP-2 Addendum 1 (March 23, 2018): Modified alignment of the interior fence separating the upper and lower yards, removal of three de-energized 138-kilovolt (kV) rack structures and associated hazardous materials abatement activities.
- NTP-3 (April 27, 2018): Rebuild and upgrade of the San Juan Capistrano Substation.
- NTP-4 (October 29, 2018): Transmission and distribution line work.
- NTP-5 (July 26, 2019): Installation of the 138-kV and 230-kV eastern getaways and removal and installation of 12-kV distribution lines.
- NTP-6 (October 30, 2019): Removal and replacement of the existing 138-kV transmission line with a new double-circuit 230-kV transmission line from Rancho Viejo Road southeast to pole 41.
- NTP-6 Addendum 1 (September 29, 2020): Extension of the scope of NTP-6 to pole 42, located just north of the Talega Hub and outside of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.
- NTP-7 (February 4, 2021): Installation of two 230-kV transmission lines, reconfiguration of three 138-kV lines, and relocation of a 69-kV line within the Talega Hub and Corridor.

The WSP USA Inc. (WSP) compliance monitoring team completed an onsite compliance check during this reporting period to verify compliance of ongoing site preparation and construction activities. The CPUC/WSP compliance monitoring team visited the San Juan Capistrano Substation site and other

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project construction areas on July 20, 2023. The WSP site inspection report that summarizes observed construction activities and compliance events, as applicable, and verifies mitigation measures (MMs) and applicant proposed measures (APMs) was completed for the site visit. This report is attached below (Attachment 1).

Project activities in July 2023 were covered under NTP-3, NTP-6, and NTP-7. At the Capistrano substation work included completing 230-kV control cabinets cable pulling and wire termination; control house phase 1 testing; wire pulling for lighting, switches, and security. Work continued on capacitor bank conduit excavation, installation, and backfilling; ground grid, capacitor banks, and perimeter fencing; drilling capacitor bank steel; and installation of capacitor bank steel. Work was completed on 138-kV and 230-kV lighting protection downloads; transformer fire wall trim installation; transformer wire full; man door painting; and gate access installation at Calle Santa Rosalia. Functional trip testing of 230-kV is beginning. At La Pata staging area work included installing bonding straps at Location 5 through 41; brushing and clearing multiple locations along the ROW; and construction staging. Work at the Talega Hub and corridor work included pad grading, excavating, and installing brow ditch at Location 45; reframing the pole at Location 49; pulling wire between Locations 49 and 47; setting rebar and forms at Location 6B; placing concrete and strip forms at Location 6B; setting post base at Location 5B; and continuing lagging and testing tiebacks at Location 45.

In addition, SDG&E conducted routine inspection, maintenance, and monitoring activities in July 2023. Inspection activities included weekly Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan inspections at all construction activity areas to ensure there were no best management practice deficiencies or potential non-compliance incidents. No rain events occurred in the month of July. A permanent V-ditch is in progress of excavation and will connect with the existing concrete drainage outside of the north screen wall. No non-compliance incidents were observed during the month of July. SDG&E conducted monitoring, as applicable, for cultural and paleontological resources. Cultural monitoring was conducted at Locations 31, 40, and 47. No observations of cultural resources or non-compliance incidents were noted by the monitor during this month's reporting period. Paleontological monitoring occurred at ground-disturbing activities associated with NTP-7, including Locations 5B, 6B, 45, and 47. No observations of paleontological resources. No non-compliance incidents were noted by the monitor during this month's reporting period for paleontological resources.

SDG&E conducted monitoring, as applicable, for biological resources. Several observations were made during the month of July:

- Locations for biological monitoring were associated with construction activities for NTP-7 at Locations 4B-9B, 12A-19A, 40-49, and Z322479-Z322484. No special status species were observed during biological monitoring, pre-construction surveys or sweeps in July.
- Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds were conducted at the Cow Camp Staging Area Locations 4B-6B, 12A-16A, 18A, 19A, 42, 44, 47-40, RFS Z36517, and RFS Z322479-RFS Z322484. NTP-6 areas were also surveyed at Locations 5-15, 21-41, and RFS Z221634. The renested house finch nest (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) at Location 5B fledged as of July 31. A new house finch nest at Location 50 was observed and eggs were incubating.
- Burrowing owl surveys are conducted prior to ground-disturbing activities concurrently with pre-construction nesting bird surveys.
- No pre-construction sweeps for arroyo toad were performed within the Cristianitos South Staging Area (approved in MPR-16), as no rain events occurred during the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, one western rattlesnake (*Crotalus cerastes*) was identified at Location 19A. The LEI was notified and the snake was successfully relocated (33.4490249, -117.5773875) within coastal sage scrub habitat approximately 0.25 miles from the nearest Project location.

- One wildlife mortality occurred on July 24 when a deceased gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*) was discovered in the access road near Location 50 (33.4531900, -117.5785300). The snake was identified by Par who notified the ECM and biological monitor. The deceased snake was relocated 50 feet west of the access road as to not attract other animals. In accordance with MM BR-3, pre-construction sweeps were performed for the active Project areas and access roads by a qualified biological monitor. Spotters were also being utilized for deliveries, but unfortunately this snake was not seen by anyone onsite prior to it being found deceased.

Project compliance during the July 2023 monitoring period was achieved through regular communication with and reporting by SDG&E. Communication between the CPUC/WSP compliance team and SDG&E has been regular and effective. SDG&E's monthly environmental compliance report for July 2023 provides a compliance summary and includes a description of construction activities, a look-ahead construction schedule, a monthly biological monitoring report, a summary of compliance with project commitments (MMs/APMs), a summary of non-compliance incidents and public complaints (as applicable), a record of SOCRE Project personnel that received safety and environmental awareness training during the reporting month, and a list of upcoming or pending Minor Project Refinements (MPRs) and outstanding agency deliverables.

Overall, the SOCRE Project has maintained compliance with the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program based on adherence to applicable MMs and APMs and satisfaction of pre-construction requirements and conditions of approval for NTP-1, NTP-2, NTP-2 Addendum 1, NTP-3, NTP-4, NTP-5, NTP-6, NTP-6 Addendum 1, NTP-7, MPR-1, MPR-1 Addendum 1, MPR-1 Addendum 2, MPR-3, MPR-4, MPR-5, MPR-6, MPR-7, MPR-8, MPR-9, MPR-10, MPR-11, MPR-12, and MPR-13, MPR-14, MPR-15, and MPR-16, MPR-17, MPR-18, and MPR-19.

Compliance Incidents

No compliance incidents were reported during July 2023.

Public Concerns

No public concerns were reported during July 2023.

Minor Approvals

SDG&E submitted a request for MPR-20 on June 26, 2023, which was approved on July 24, 2023. MPR-20 authorizes the use of a temporary work area located immediately east of the Location 9A work area. The work area would be used as a laydown area for sections of lattice tower during the removal of Z223146 during NTP-7 activities.

Sincerely,



Fernando Guzman
CPUC Compliance Manager, WSP



Mr. Andrew Chan
September 5, 2023

cc: Richard Quasarano, Environmental Project Manager, SDG&E



ATTACHMENT 1

CPUC Site Inspection Reports

July 20, 2023



South Orange County Reliability Enhancement Project CPUC Site Inspection Form

Project:	South Orange County Reliability Enhancement (SOCRE) Project	Date:	July 20, 2023
Project Proponent:	San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)	Report #:	VS166
Lead Agency:	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)	Monitor(s):	CPUC/WSP Compliance Monitor
CPUC PM:	Andrew Chan, Energy Division	AM/PM Weather:	Sunny, warm, and breezy
CPUC CM (WSP):	Fernando Guzman	Start/End time:	1000 to 1300
Project NTP(s):	Notice to Proceed (NTP)-1, NTP-2, NTP-2 Addendum 1, NTP-3, NTP-4, NTP-5, NTP-6, and NTP-7		

SITE INSPECTION CHECKLIST (Based on monitor's observations during site visit; responses do not imply that monitor observed all staff, crews, and parts of the project during this inspection)

Safety and Environmental Awareness Program (SEAP)	Yes	No	N/A
Is the WEAP training in place and does it appear to have been completed by all new hires (construction and monitors)?	X		
Erosion and Dust Control (Air and Water Quality)	Yes	No	N/A
Have temporary erosion and sediment control measures (Best Management Practices [BMPs]) been installed?	X		
Are erosion and sediment control measures (BMPs) properly installed (without apparent deficiencies) and functioning as intended during rain events?	X		
Are measures in place to avoid/minimize mud tracking onto public roadways, in accordance with the project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)?	X		
Is dust control being implemented (i.e., access roads watered, haul trucks covered, soil piles are tarped, streets cleaned on a regular basis)?	X		
Are work areas being effectively watered prior to excavation or grading?	X		
Are measures in place to stabilize soils and effectively suppress fugitive dust?	X		
Equipment	Yes	No	N/A
Are observed vehicles maintaining a speed limit of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads?	X		
Are observed vehicles/equipment arriving onsite clean of sediment or plant debris?	X		
Are observed vehicles/equipment turned off when not in use?	X		
Work Areas	Yes	No	N/A
Is exclusionary fencing or flagging in place to protect sensitive biological or cultural resources?	X		
Are observed vehicles, equipment, and construction personnel staying within approved work areas and on approved roads?	X		



Are excavations and trenches covered at the end of the day?	X		
Are wildlife escape ramps installed at 100-foot intervals with ramps not exceeding 2:1 slopes?	X		
Biology	Yes	No	N/A
Have preconstruction surveys been completed for biological (coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern will flycatcher, rare plants) resources, as appropriate?	X		
Are biological monitors present onsite?	X		
Are appropriate measures in place to protect sensitive habitat and/or drainages (i.e., flagging, signage, exclusion fencing, biological monitor, appropriate buffer distance enacted)?	X		
Have wildlife been relocated from work areas? If yes, describe below.	X		
Have impacts occurred to adjacent habitat (sensitive or non-sensitive)? If yes, describe below.	X		
Were any threatened or endangered species observed? If yes, describe below.		X	
If there are wetlands or water bodies near construction activities, are adequate measures in place to avoid impacts on these features?	X		
Have there been any work stoppages for biological resources? If yes, describe below.		X	
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Yes	No	N/A
Are identified cultural/paleo resources that will not be relocated/salvaged clearly marked for exclusion?			X
Are archaeological and paleontological monitors onsite if needed?	X		
Are appropriate buffers maintained around sensitive resources (e.g., cultural sites)?			X
Have there been any work stoppages for cultural/paleo resources? If yes, describe below.		X	
Hazardous Materials	Yes	No	N/A
Are hazardous materials that are stored or used on site properly managed?	X		
Are procedures in place to prevent spills and accidental releases?	X		
Are required fire prevention and control measures in place?	X		
Are contaminated soils properly managed for onsite storage or offsite disposal?	X		
Work Hours and Noise	Yes	No	N/A
Are required night lighting reduction measures in place?			X
Is construction occurring within approved hours?	X		
Are required noise control measures in place?			X

AREAS MONITORED (i.e., structure numbers, yards, or substations)
San Juan Capistrano Substation and SOCRE transmission line work.

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVED ACTIVITIES (i.e., mitigation measures [MMs] of particular focus or concern, construction activity, any discussions with first-party monitors or construction crews)

Prior to arriving onsite, I notified the Lead Environmental Inspector (LEI) about my upcoming site visit and met with the Environmental Inspector (EI) at the SOCRE substation.

Work was completed on the southern sound wall, with the exception of the small segment awaiting removal of the existing poles (Photo 1).

Erection of the infrastructure continued at the eastern portion of the project site, with excavation work and additional grounding wire installation (Photo 2).

Areas around the northern sound wall require cleanup and weed removal (Photo 3). I discussed this with the EI and reiterated the need to remove existing best management practices (BMPs).

Construction activity continued around the transformers (Photo 4).

At the Talega substation the Phase II work continued. I met with the LEI and we continued the site inspection.

I walked through the staging area at the end of the road, inspecting the silt fencing and drip pans (Photo 5). The area was well maintained; however, the site was dusty with several inches of dust present within the staging area access road (Photo 6).

At Location 47 crews were completing grading work to the tower pad (Photo 7). A paleontology monitor was onsite and did not have any significant discoveries to report. The foundation was poured and the tower installed (Photo 8).

At the TSP 45 tower pad a crew was working on tie-backs that stabilized the retaining wall (Photos 9 and 10). The area around the cement mixing equipment remained well contained.

A water truck was observed watering the access roads (Photo 11).

The foundation hole at Location 6B was drilled and partially poured. The hole had been covered (Photo 12).



No work was being completed at the west end of Phase II and the equipment had been relocated (Photo 13). The additional staging area was cleared of equipment with only a TSP segment remaining (Photo 14).

One active House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) nest was inspected with a buffer in place around the pole. Any work around this pole was monitored by a project biologist (Photo 15).

<p>MITIGATION MEASURES VERIFIED (Refer to the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program [MMCRP], e.g., MM BIO-5. Report only on MMs pertinent to your observations today)</p> <p>All project personnel have been through the environmental training with hardhat stickers (MM HAZ-3, MM CUL-1).</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP (i.e., items to check on next visit, minor issues to resolve)</p> <p>Check on site monitors, dust control and nesting bird issues.</p>
<p>COMPLIANCE SUGGESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS (i.e., suggestions to improve compliance on-site, environmental observations of note)</p>
<p>COMPLIANCE SUMMARY</p> <p>Check all applicable boxes below to indicate new conditions or issues that have occurred since your last visit. Note this information on the monitoring datasheet and document with photographs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New biological or cultural discovery requiring compliance with MMs, permit conditions, etc.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Potential compliance incident(s) observed. Document incident(s) and potential for environmental resources to be impacted.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New non-compliance issues reported by SDG&E monitors since your last visit. Describe issues and resolution under “compliance suggestions or additional observations” (above) and include SDG&E report identification number.</p>
<p>PREVIOUS NON-COMPLIANCE ITEMS REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP OR RESOLVED TODAY:</p>


REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 1 – Southern sound wall. Photo facing west.



REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 2 – Work continued on infrastructure installation. Photo facing east.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 3 – Areas requiring cleanup of debris. Photo facing north.



REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 4 – Work around the transformers. Photo facing east.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project - Phase 2		Photo 5 – Secondary containment present under equipment parked in the staging area north of Talega substation. Photo facing west.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project - Phase 2		Photo 6 –Dusty staging area. Photo facing southeast.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project - Phase 2		Photo 7 – Grading the access road to Location 47. Photo facing east.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project - Phase 2		Photo 8 – Final grade at Location 47, note the TSP was installed. Photo facing west.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 9 – Cement mixing equipment remained at TSP 45 and was well contained. Photo facing south.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 10 – Tie-back work at Location 45. Photo facing west.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 11 – Water truck watering the access road. Photo facing northeast.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 12 – New foundation hole drilled at Location 6B. Photo facing west.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 13 – New TSPs at the western portion of Phase II work. Photo facing west.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 14 – Staging area was mostly cleared out. Photo facing south.
7/20/23	SOCRE Project – Phase 2		Photo 15 – Nesting bird buffer. Photo facing south.

Completed by:	CPUC/WSP Compliance Monitor
Date:	7/27/23



Mr. Andrew Chan
September 5, 2023

Reviewed by:	Manager
Date:	07/31/23