



October 11, 2023

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

Re: Monthly Report Summary #71 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 **September 1 to 30, 2023**, for the South Orange County Reliability Enhancement (SOCRE) Project in Orange County, California. Compliance monitoring was performed once between September 1 and 30, 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 September 28, 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 September 2023 were covered under NTP-3 and NTP-7. At the Capistrano substation work included installing ground grid east of 230-kV GIS; grading and exporting soil; excavating and compacting the former lattice tower area; trip testing 230-kV GIS; importing 1-inch rock and installing geo-webbing on the east slope; swabbing and using mandrel on conduits; installing fiber cable and grounding rods; installing the southeast roll up door and wall frame; placing 230-kV capacitor yard class 2 base; testing 230-kV GIS equipment; placing CMU wall footing concrete; placing 230-kV capacitor yard weed control concrete and fencing; completing FSM screen wall; retesting 230-kV wire changes; continuing with 138-kV punch list items; and completing the walk for 230-kV GIS punch list. Work at the Talega hub and corridor included mobilizing equipment to Cristianitos South Staging Area and Cow Camp Staging Area; and staging equipment in the ROW.

In addition, SDG&E conducted routine inspection, maintenance, and monitoring activities in September 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. One rain event took place on September 30. Ongoing geo-webbing and rock placement are nearly complete on the eastern slope of the Capistrano Substation. SDG&E conducted monitoring, as applicable, for cultural and paleontological resources. Cultural monitoring was not required during September as there was no new ground disturbance within the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) or within 100 feet of an ESA. Paleontological monitoring was not required during September as there was no new ground disturbance within undisturbed soils with high or undetermined paleontological potential. 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 September:

- Pre-construction sweeps were performed as necessary within the Cow Camp Staging Area. No special-status species were observed.
- Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds were not conducted during the reporting period as no work took place in areas requiring surveys during the nesting season.
- Burrowing owl surveys are conducted prior to ground-disturbing activities concurrently with pre-construction nesting bird surveys. No burrowing owls or nests were observed in September.
- No pre-construction sweeps for arroyo toad were performed within the Cristianitos South Staging Area (approved in MPR-16), as no rain events occurred prior to September 30.
- No wildlife mortalities occurred in September.

Project compliance during the September 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 September 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, MPR-19, and MPR-20.

Compliance Incidents

No compliance incidents were reported during September 2023.

Public Concerns

Two public complaints were received in September 2023 relating to vibration during construction.

- One resident called the Project hotline on September 13 expressing concern about feeling vibrations periodically in his home for a few days. He stated ongoing construction resulted in his jacuzzi being dirty. A vibration roller was in use at the substation on the day of the complaint. Per Section 4.2 of the Noise and Vibration Control Plan, use of vibratory rollers should be avoided in sensitive areas where feasible. According to Project engineers, vibratory rollers were required to achieve 90% completion. The SDG&E External Relations Manager contacted the resident the day the complaint was received and visited the home the following day. The resident was informed that vibratory roller work was complete and remaining compaction work was located further south of this and other residences. Regarding dust concerns, the resident was informed that SDG&E would service the jacuzzi and have the windows cleaned if so desired. The resident stated they did not want this completed until construction was complete.
- One resident contacted the External Relations Manager directly after experiencing vibrations in the residence on September 15. SDG&E advised the Manager that vibratory roller use was necessary to reach 90% compaction along the access road east of the control shelter. The resident was advised that use of vibration was necessary but would be limited to the extent practicable. The resident was then followed up with on September 18 and 21 and did not have further complaints and appreciated the follow up. An open line of communication between the resident and SDG&E will be maintained. Use of vibration will be limited to 10 to 15 minute intervals for remaining compaction of the access road.

Minor Approvals

SDG&E submitted a request for MPR-21 on August 10, 2023, which was approved on September 5, 2023. MPR-21 authorizes the use of a work area contiguous with a previously approved Project location to replace Location 109 to install a new handhole within paved road to ensure safe overhead reconfiguration of energized wire at Locations 8B and 9B.

Sincerely,



Fernando Guzman



Mr. Andrew Chan
October 11, 2023

CPUC Compliance Manager, WSP

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



ATTACHMENT 1

CPUC Site Inspection Reports

September 28, 2023



South Orange County Reliability Enhancement Project CPUC Site Inspection Form

Project:	South Orange County Reliability Enhancement (SOCRE) Project	Date:	September 28, 2023
Project Proponent:	San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)	Report #:	VS169
Lead Agency:	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)	Monitor(s):	CPUC/WSP Compliance Monitor
CPUC PM:	Andrew Chan, Energy Division	AM/PM Weather:	Overcast, mild, and calm
CPUC CM (WSP):	Fernando Guzman	Start/End time:	0945 to 1100
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)

I arrived onsite at the SOCRE substation at 0945 and met with the Environmental Inspector (EI). The Phase II portion of the project remained on hold.

The remaining portions of the sound wall barrier were completed along the southern portion of the site (Photos 1 and 2).

Work continued on slope stabilization with the installation of filter fabric, geoweb, and gravel (Photo 3).



Final grade was achieved for the majority of the site with road base being delivered prior to paving (Photos 4 and 6).

The floor of the Cap Bank area was poured and fencing was installed (Photo 5).

Ground wire installation continued within the project site (Photo 7).

<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>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
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 1 – The sound wall barrier was completed and a new tubular steel pole (TSP) will be installed. Photo facing southwest.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 2 – The sound barrier wall was completed along the southern side of the project site. Photo facing southeast.
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 3 – Filter fabric, GeoWeb and gravel were being installed on the sloping portions of the site. Photo facing east.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 4 – Final grade was achieved and road base was being delivered. Photo facing north.
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 5 – The flooring in the Cap Bank area was poured, with work being completed on lighting towers. Photo facing northeast.

REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS			
Date	Location	Photo	Description
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 6 – Final grade and road base installation prior to paving. Photo facing north.
9/28/23	SOCRE Project		Photo 7 – Ground wire installation. Photo facing west.

Completed by:	CPUC/WSP Compliance Monitor
Date:	10/03/23

Reviewed by:	Manager
Date:	10/04/23