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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

**ANTELOPE PARDEE PROJECT, SEGMENT 1**

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC  
Marian Kadota, Project Manager, ANF  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 20, 2008  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #9, March 9-March 15, 2008

The Antelope-Pardee Project, Segment 1, is comprised of three sections:

- Section 1: Pardee Substation to the ANF boundary.
- Section 2: ANF
- Section 3: ANF Boundary to the Antelope Substation

During the subject week, construction activity began under Notice to Proceed (NTP) #5 for the construction of the Shoofly in Section 1, and construction continued under NTP #2 at the Antelope Substation, in Section 3. No work was conducted on Section 2, Angeles National Forest. Equipment, materials, and office trailers are being staged in the various approved construction yards.

**SECTION 1, SHOOFLY**

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter was onsite March 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of Activity:**

The Shoofly portion of the Antelope Pardee Transmission Line Project involves the installation of a temporary bypass line, or Shoofly, in order to maintain the existing service along the existing transmission line corridor on existing SCE transmission lines. Construction of the Shoofly is taking place within an existing SCE transmission line right-of-way (ROW) in the city of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County, and involves the construction of 18 new structures to hold the Shoofly line, while the original structures holding the original line are replaced to accommodate the new 500 kV line. Construction activity under NTP #5 in the Shoofly portion of Section 1, Segment 1 consisted of the following activities.

1. A construction kick off meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lower Pumpkin marshalling yard. SCE, construction personnel from PAR (SCE's construction contractor), Environmental Inspectors and monitors from Burns & McDonnell, LSA, and Cogstone (SCE's environmental consultants), and the CPUC EM were in attendance. Project personnel were reminded of the environmental and safety requirements for the project.
2. Crews began to mobilize equipment into Shoofly construction areas. Preconstruction biological surveys were submitted to the CPUC, but did not include nesting bird surveys within a 500-foot buffer of all project areas as required under Mitigation Measure (MM) B-6 in the EIS/EIR. SCE has indicated that the 500-foot nesting bird surveys will be conducted in advance of project activity along access roads and pole structure locations as equipment is mobilized to the site.
3. Rock placement along the access routes was conducted at road entrances to minimize the amount of dirt tracked onto public roadways (see Figure 1).



4. An existing road leading to Shoofly pole 25 was improved using excavators and bulldozers to widen the road to accommodate construction equipment to the tower site. Once this road is improved, approximately 13,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the ridge to accommodate the new structure 25 and hauled to a nearby soil disposal site. The original soil disposal site included in the CPUC NTP #5 has been abandoned by SCE and a new disposal site is currently being requested and will be included under Modification #1 to NTP #5.
5. New temporary access roads were cut to access Shoofly pole construction locations 2, 3, and 4 and were monitored by Burns & McDonnell biologists as well as project Paleontological Monitors (see Figure 2).
6. Holes for the temporary Shoofly pole structures were drilled at Shoofly pole locations 1 and 1A (see Figure 3).

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Flagging of the project disturbance boundaries was re-installed after many of the field limit boundaries were noted to be unclear or missing the prior week. Currently, blue and white flagging marks the access roads and disturbance areas around pole structure locations. Red and white flagging is used for exclusion areas.
2. Pre-construction biological survey reports were submitted on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> but did not include a 500-foot buffer survey for breeding birds (MM B-6). SCE has agreed to conduct these surveys prior to construction activity along the Shoofly route.
3. Bird nesting activity along the Shoofly has been reported to both the CPUC and CDFG. Two red-tailed hawks were observed building a nest in a lattice tower along the access road to Wire Stringing Site 14 and the new proposed soil disposal site. This tower is not part of the Antelope-Pardee project; however, the tower is within 50-feet of the access road. Three house finch nests were identified at the Kathleen Road entrance to the ROW. SCE was in discussion with CDFG to allow for a reduced buffer around the nests so far identified and a letter was issued by CDFG on March 19<sup>th</sup> documenting compliance requirements.
4. Modification #1 to NTP #5 was submitted in order to include a new soil disposal site for tower site 25 construction. Approximately 13,000 cubic yards of material will need to be hauled offsite into the proposed new dump site. Cultural and biological survey results have been submitted to the CPUC, and the site was visited by the CPUC EM. The proposed access to the new disposal site is along an existing SCE road then enters private property, where the material will be dumped. Because the access road to the soil disposal site is within 300-feet of the red-tailed hawk nest discussed above, CDFG concurrence will be required for using the road.
5. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Paleontological Monitors identified fossils in a road cut near the tower 25 location. The monitors were able to remove the fossils in advance of any earth work.
6. Silt fencing was installed down slope of a newly constructed road leading to Shoofly structure 2 to prevent any loose soil from being washed down slope. Rain was forecasted on the weekend of March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
7. The Encroachment Permit from the city of Santa Clarita was submitted on March 12<sup>th</sup>. SCE is expecting Encroachment (for guard pole installation) and Grading (for new road construction) permits from Los Angeles County to be issued in the near future.

**Agency Representatives:**

CDFG biologist, Dan Blankenship, and SCE representatives visited the Shoofly site on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Blankenship and SCE discussed ways to address breeding birds identified in the Project area and indicated that he would prepare a letter for SCE that addresses the issues. As previously noted, CDFG issued a letter on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SECTION 2, ANF & ADJACENT YARDS**

**ANF Representatives:** Marian Kadota  
**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter

**Summary of Activity:**

No construction activity took place on the ANF during the subject week.

**Environmental Compliance:**

No Non-Compliance Reports were issued by the ANF during the subject week.

No CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

**SECTION 3, ANTELOPE SUBSTATION & ADJACENT YARDS**

**CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jenny Slaughter

Aspen EM Jenny Slaughter toured the Antelope Substation on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of Activity:**

Construction activity under Notice to Proceed (NTP #2) at the Antelope Substation consisted of the following activities.

1. The installation of erosion control measures as identified in the SWPPP began and is being conducted by an SCE subcontractor. All personnel working on the Antelope Substation under NTP #2 are given Environmental Training in the office trailers and a log of trained personnel is kept on site.
2. Construction of the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) continued. Crews are working on the sub-floor and walls. Excavation for the building foundation has been completed. The Paleontological Monitor is no longer required during construction activities because the Paleontological Plan has been approved.
3. For the 66-kV sub transmission line relocation, foundations have been completed and steel placement continued.
4. The substation expansion area is on hold until SCE secures the adjacent land.
5. The Burns and McDonnell construction yard has been set up adjacent to the substation. Two office trailers have been brought to the site and are being set up for operation. The entire site has been graveled and straw wattles have been placed surrounding the yard.
6. PAR Construction has also set up office trailers in an area immediately adjacent to the Burns and McDonnell yard.

**Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM observed that work activities were in compliance with NTP #2, the certified FEIR/S, and other permit requirements.

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

**CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS) & ANF PERMITTING**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed and ANF permitting activity for the Antelope-Pardee Project, Segment 1, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**CPUC NTPS & ANF PERMITTING**  
(Updated 03-20-08)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
<b>CPUC NTPs</b>			
#1	Oct 10, 2007	Oct 16, 2007	Mojave Marshalling Yard. Per the request, the yard will primarily be used to store construction equipment and materials for the project.
#2	Nov 16, 2007	Dec 10, 2007	Antelope Substation construction and expansion, as well as the use of two adjacent contractor laydown yards.
#2 Mod	Dec 21, 2007	Jan 2, 2008	Allow grading activity at the Antelope site/yards and replacement of an existing 80-foot microwave tower with a new 120-foot tower immediately outside of the communications room within the fenced area of the Antelope Substation.
#3	Jan 10, 2008	Jan 16, 2008	Use of five contractor laydown yards as named Pumpkin Yard, Pottery Yard, Pardee Substation Yard, Mechanics Yard and Avenue I Yard.
#4	Jan 29, 2008	Feb 4, 2008	Use of the Racetrack Marshalling Yard.
#5	Feb 19, 2008	Feb 28, 2008	Shoofly Construction, Section 1.
#5 Mod	March 11, 2008	March 20, 2008	Use of a new soil disposal site for the Shoofly construction, Section 1.
#6	March 18, 2008	Under Review	Use of three contractor laydown yards as named Blue Cloud, Pumpkin 3, and Rodeo.
<b>ANF PERMITTING</b>			
	Nov. 29, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	Radio Repeater – installation of a temporary radio repeater site on Sierra Pelona Ridge to provide communication during construction activities tied to the project. Improvement installation began Jan. 11
	Sept. 27, 2007	Dec. 14, 2007	Geotechnical testing – 23 geotechnical borings are authorized on National Forest lands to provide additional information that will be used in the design of the transmission towers. Notice to proceed was signed Jan 31 to begin work the week of Feb. 3

**VARIANCE REQUESTS**

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, a variance for the Fire Plan was developed by ANF staff. Without this variance, ANF would shut down the construction operations at a PAL EV level. With the variance, ANF allows construction operations to continue until 1:00 pm provided that SCE complies with some additional protection measures outlined in the variance.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Rock was placed where the Shoofly access meets public roads in order to minimize dirt tracking outside of the right-of-way.



**Figure 2:** New temporary roads were constructed to Shoofly structure 2. Silt fencing was installed below the loose material to prevent erosion into adjacent areas.



**Figure 3:** After the road crew prepares the access to the Shoofly tower site, the drilling crew mobilizes and drills the pole structure foundation holes.