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## PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS, SEGMENTS 1 - 11

**To:** John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC **From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** July 30, 2010

**Subject:** Weekly Reports 129-130: July 3 to July 16, 2010

#### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the following SCE transmission projects:

- Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1, including Antelope Substation expansion;
- Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2, 3A and 3B, including the Windhub and Highwind Substations; and
- Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segments 4 through 11, including Whirlwind Substation and the expansion of Vincent Substation.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Finally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace and non-compliance activity are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM): Stephanie Jayne, Jenny Slaughter and Allison Roth

#### **SEGMENT 1: ANTELOPE-PARDEE**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

- 1. Grading of the Antelope Substation expansion area was completed on July 9. Crews continued work on the AA banks in the middle of the grading area, and a crew worked on the circuit breaker foundation of one of the switchracks. Telecom installed anchor poles on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. The 66 kV crew pulled cable to vaults on the south side of the Antelope Substation.
- 3. Erosion repair work was conducted at Tower 9 in Santa Clarita. Erosion control measures were reinstalled once the major earthwork was completed.
- 4. Habitat restoration has not been completed in Segment 1. ECORP and Nature's Image are conducting maintenance activities including weeding in areas previously seeded. Areas still requiring treatment in Segment 1 include Wire Stringing Site 3 and Tower 9.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

- 1. A woodrat was inadvertently run over by a bulldozer working at Tower 9 on July 13. The species could not be identified.
- 2. A Cooper's hawk was sighted near Tower 9 on July 15. A CNDDB form was submitted for the sighting.
- 3. Erosion repairs are taking place by both ECORP/Nature's Image and PAR construction as needed.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Segment 1 construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

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#### **Agency Representatives:**

None

#### **SEGMENT 2: ANTELOPE-VINCENT**

The Notice to Proceed for Segment 2 construction (NTP #14) was issued by the CPUC on September 30, 2008. Segment 2 involves the construction of a new 21.0-mile single-circuit 500 kV transmission line initially to be energized at 220 kV and 0.6 miles of a new 220 kV transmission line connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the Vincent Substation in incorporated Los Angeles County. Segment 2 construction activities have been completed and the Segment 2 transmission line was energized on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

Construction of Segment 2 is complete and the line was energized on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Erosion inspections are ongoing and revegetation is scheduled for Fall 2010.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued for Segment 2 construction activities during the subject period. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

#### **Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

#### SEGMENT 3: ANTELOPE-WINDHUB/WINDHUB-HIGHWIND

The NTP for Segment 3A (NTP #17) was issued by the CPUC on October 22, 2008. Segment 3A involves the construction of a new 25.6-mile 500 kV transmission line initially energized at 220 kV connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the new Windhub Substation on Oak Creek Road in the Tehachapi area of Kern County. The NTP for the new Windhub Substation (NTP #19) was issued by the CPUC on December 1, 2008. Construction of the Segment 3A transmission line has been completed and energization has not been scheduled. Construction of Segment 3B is expected to begin in the fall of 2010.

#### **Summary of Activity**

- 1. Construction was completed on the Highwind Material Yard which is near the site of the future Highwind Substation. Material delivery has begun.
- 2. Construction continued at the Windhub Substation with some trenching activity.

#### **Environmental Compliance**:

- 1. A Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvilli*) was observed dead on the dirt road north of Highwind Yard on July 8th. The lizard had likely been dead for days; a CNDDB form was submitted.
- 2. SCE is working to develop a solution for the channel incision that occurred immediately downstream of the rip-rapped stream channel at the Windhub Substation site. Once a plan is developed, it will be submitted to the CPUC. SCE is also pursuing the acquisition of the stream channel property.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued for Segment 3 construction activities during the subject period. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

#### Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):

None

#### **TRTP SEGMENTS 4-11**

The SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by the CPUC on December 17, 2009. Construction activities include the establishment of yards, the Vincent Substation expansion, and Segment 7 telecom work.

#### **Summary of Activity**

- 1. Activities continued under CPUC NTP #2 for the expansion of the Vincent Substation within the existing substation disturbance area. Grading of the 550 kV expansion area is expected to begin in mid-August. Activities within the existing substation disturbance area included trenching, installation of electrical conduit in trenches north and northwest of the control room, backfilling of trenches, and the pouring of concrete slurry around manholes.
- 2. The Rancho Vista Yard in Rancho Cucamonga continued to receive materials. Materials were off-loaded in the northeast portion of the yard and then covered with netting and shrink wrap to minimize the potential of birds utilizing the materials for nesting. Orange fencing in the yard clearly demarcated the 50-foot buffer for Delhi sands flower-loving fly; no construction activity occurred within the sensitive area. Additionally, the yard layout was marked for future deliveries and for the delivery of a trailer.
- 3. Yard 28 in Lancaster has been constructed and has received several material deliveries. Office trailers have been brought in, but have yet to hook up to electrical power.

#### **Environmental Compliance**:

- 1. On July 6 2010, an employee from All Day Electric drove his truck through an exclusion buffer zone for a house finch nest in Yard 28. The monitoring biologists reported no biological impacts associated with the incident (unknown to the biologists, the nest had already fledged).
- 2. SCE biologists performed a 14-day preconstruction survey in the Vincent Substation expansion area. Biologists evaluated the biological resources within a 500-foot buffer around the expansion area. Biologists indentified several burrows suitable for burrowing owl, but none had signs of use. There are two remaining bird nests within the 500-foot buffer of the substation that will each have a 300-foot buffer; none of the 300-foot buffers overlap with the expansion area boundaries.
- 3. Two more northern mockingbird nests were identified in Rancho Vista Yard. SCE received a buffer reduction concurrence from CDFG on July 8. All three buffers were reduced to 50 feet. As of July 16, two of the nests are still active and the third is considered inactive. This third nest had contained two nestlings in the previous week; however, the nestlings and adults are no longer present.
- 4. SCE provided a response to the June 22, 2010 Project Memorandum regarding mowing activity at Mesa Yard, along the TRTP right-of-way in Montebello Hills, and at Segment 8 West Contractor Yard. SCE has determined that the work at these sites was conducted by SCE Operations and Maintenance (O&M) crews or third-parties and is not TRTP related. However, the SCE Environmental Group for TRTP will confer with O&M about upcoming work within the TRTP project areas, and in turn O&M will not conduct routine or other activities within TRTP project areas without first consulting with both O&M and TRTP biologists.
- 5. Two desert spiny lizards and one Mojave rattlesnake were reported trapped in bird-deterrent netting placed over materials and equipment in Yard 28. All were released unharmed.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for TRTP construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

#### **Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):**

None

#### **CONTRACTOR YARDS: ALL SEGMENTS**

Contractor Yards are listed below along with a summary of current status.

- Racetrack Yard Final clean-up completed
- Pumpkin Yard Final clean-up completed
- Pottery Yard Final clean-up completed
- Hydrant Yard Final clean-up completed
- 10 Acre Yard Final clean-up and decompaction completed; has not been reseded.
- Avenue I Yard, Segments 2 & 3A: In use
- Mojave Yard, Segments 3B: In use.
- Highwind Yard, Segment 3B: Established. Minimal material storage at present.
- Avenue J Yard, Segments 4-11: In use.
- Yard 28, Segments 4-11: Established. Minimal material storage at present.
- Rodeo Yard, Segments 6 & 11: Proposed under Segments 4, 5, and 10.
- Huntington Drive Yard, Segments 6 & 11: Proposed under Segment 7
- Rancho Vista Yard, Segments 4-11: Established. Minimal material storage at present.

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

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed and ANF permitting activity for the Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project, Segments 1, 2, and 3, to date.

TABLE 1 CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING (Updated 07/30/2010)

NITD #/	NED III					
NTP #/	Date	Date	Segment	Description		
Permit	Requested	Issued	#	Description		
	CPUC NTPs, Segments 1-3					
For CPUC N	For CPUC NTP and Addendum activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 1 in Weekly Reports 106-107.					
#26	12/18/09	01/05/10	1	Expansion of Antelope Substation.		
CPUC Addendum	12/21/09	01/19/10	1	Permanent AR 19 and access road to Const 34A.		
CPUC Addendum	12/21/09	01/19/10	1	Permanent refueling basin at Hydrant Yard.		
#27	12/23/09	01/05/10	3B	Oak Peak Communication Site		
CPUC Addendum	01/25/10	02/01/10	2	Reclassification of two temporary roads to permanent and relocation of transposition poles.		
Revised CPUC Addendum	02/10/10	02/19/10	2	Relocate two previously approved transposition towers from Const 110 to Const 105.		
#28	02/10/10	02/18/10	3B	Highwind Marshalling Yard		
#29	02/10/10	03/02/10	1	Relocation of the Sagebrush Transmission Line at the Antelope Substation expansion area.		

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
CPUC Addendum	03/17/10	03/26/10	3A	Vertical mulching, capping of a portion of the existing roadway, and making this overland route a permanent access for SCE operations and maintenance to Const 43.
CPUC Addendum	04/06/10	04/27/10	3B	Elimination of transposition towers in Segment 3B.
CPUC Addendum	04/16/10	04/22/10	1	Installation of fiber optics surrounding the Antelope Expansion.
CPUC Addendum	05/25/10	06/04/10	1	Permanent overland travel routes for Operation and Maintenance inspections.
CPUC Addendum	05/25/10	06/04/10	2	Permanent overland travel routes for Operation and Maintenance inspections.
			CPUC N	TPs Segments 4-11
#1	01/13/10	02/11/10	4, 5, 10	Yard 28
#2	01/28/10	03/10/10	9	Vincent Substation Expansion
#3	03/09/10	04/01/10	7,8	Rancho Vista Yard
CPUC Addendum	04/09/10	04/19/10	9	Changes to Substation components.
#4	01/27/10	04/26/10	7, 8	Segment 7 and 8 Cell Sites
#5	01/27/10	04/30/10	7	Segment 7 Telecom
#6	03/29/10	05/12/10	7,8	Mesa Materials Storage Yard
#7	05/12/10	05/28/10	8	Segment 8 telecommunications.
#8	04/27/10	06/04/10	8	Segment 8 Contractor Yards
#9	07/21/10	07/29/10	7	Segment 7 Contractor Yards
#10	04/08/10	Under review	7, 8	66 kV re-route and relocation
	05/08/10	Under review	8	Segment 8 Transmission Line, Chino Hills, Phase I
	06/22/10	Under review	9	Whirlwind Substation
	07/19/10	Under review	8	Segment 8 Transmission Line, Phase 2 and 3
	07/28/10	Under review	4, 5, 10	Segment 4, 5, 10 Contractor Yards
ANF PERMTTING – Segment 1, 6 & 11				
	11/29/07	12/14/07	1	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
	09/27/07	12/14/07	1	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
		07/14/08	1	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir) Phase I.
		09/23/08	1	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, Phase II
		10/23/08	1	Construction of the 500 kV transmission line and wreck-out of the 66 kV towers in the ANF, Section 2.

### VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

#### TABLE 2 VARIANCE REQUESTS (Updated 07/30/2010)

(Updated 07/30/2010)						
Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description		
		V	ariance Reque	ests, Segments 1-3		
For Variar	For Variance Request activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 2 in Weekly Reports 106-107.					
VR #66	01/11/10	01/19/10	1	Modify the requirements of Mitigation Measure B-1a (Provide Restoration/Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation Communities) to fulfill a request from the property owner.		
VR #67	01/15/10	01/19/10	3A	Modify requirements of Mitigation Measure B-27b and APMs BIO-2 and BIO-7 to preserve cut Joshua trees onsite instead of off-site disposal to the extent possible for habitat creation purposes.		
VR #68	04/09/10	04/12/10	1	Release restoration requirements on road to wreck-out tower 20-4 in Section 3.		
VR #69	05/04/10	05/07/10	1	Contractor Yards surrounding Antelope Substation.		
VR #69 MOD	07/29/10	Under review	1	Additional space for storage at Antelope Substation for material being delivered for Antelope, Vincent and Whirlwind substations.		
VR #70	06/02/10	06/04/10	1	Additional disturbance areas adjacent to the pole erections for the 220 kV Sagebrush relocation work around the Antelope Substation.		
VR #71	06/22/10	06/23/10	1	Change in construction work hours for work on the Sagebrush 220 kV transmission line.		
VR #71 MOD #1	06/24/10	06/25/10	1	Expansion of construction hours for Sagebrush 220 kV T/L and foundation installation work at Antelope Substation.		
VR #71 MOD #2	07/08/10	07/09/10	1	Further expansion of construction hours for Antelope Substation construction.		
Variance Requests, Segments 4-11						
VR #1	03/25/10	03/26/10	9-Vincent	Expand grading area of Vincent substation by 15-feet for temporary turn around areas for equipment.		
VR #2	05/25/10	05/27/10	7	Relocation of helicopter landing zone for Segment 7 telecommunications work.		
VR #3	06/08/10	06/10/10	7	Clarification of Segment 7 Telecom construction operating hours and to work the weekend dates of June 12, 13, 19, and 20, within the City of Irwindale		

# TABLE 3 TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS

(Updated 07/30/2010)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description			
	TEWS, Segments 1-3						
For TEWS activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 3 in Weekly Reports 106-107.							
	TEWS, Segments 4-11						
None to date							

#### **NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

A summary of Project Memorandum, Non-Compliance Reports, and other incidents to date is provided in Table 4.

TABLE 4
NON-COMPLIANCES, PROJECT MEMORANDA, AND OTHER INCIDENTS
(Updated 07/30/2010)

Туре	Date	Location	Description		
	Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda & Other Incidents, Segments 1-3				
For Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda & Other Incidents activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 4 in Weekly Reports 106-107.					
Project Memorandum	04/27/10	3A	Delivery of equipment to Tower 43 within an ESA without monitors present.		
Incident	05/10/10	2	Relocation of artifacts from archaeological site near Tower 21 during Segment 2 construction.		
Incident	05/12/10	Antelope Substation	Fugitive dust leaving grading area.		
	Non-Complian	ces, Project Me	emoranda, & Other Incidents, Segments 4-11		
Incident/Level 1 SCE NCR	03/24/10	Vincent Substation	Construction encroachment into California Thrasher nest buffer.		
Incident	04/20/10	Rancho Vista Yard	Equipment mobilized to site before resource fencing was verified by CPUC EM.		
Incident/Level 1 SCE NCR	05/12/10	Vincent Substation	Resource buffer encroachment, construction within nesting bird buffers along Rockyford road.		
Incident/Level 1 SCE NCR	05/13/10	Vincent Substation	Resource buffer for common raven encroachment within substation.		
Incident	05/28/10	Windhub Substation	1 gallon fuel spill outside of Windhub substation.		
Incident	06/02/10	Antelope Substation	Active nest disappeared from inside the engine compartment of a water truck at the expansion area over the holiday weekend.		
Incident	06/03/10	Antelope Substation	Construction activities taking place without biological clearance surveys taking place. Resource buffer staking were in place.		
Incident	06/04/10	Antelope Substation	Resource buffer encroachment in the expansion area. Vehicle entered a nest buffer area, nest was not found.		

Type	Date	Location	Description
Incident/Level 2 SCE NCR	06/13/10	Segment 7 Telecom	Helicopter unloaded personnel and equipment in an unauthorized area.
Incident/Level 2 SCE NCR	06/17/10	Vincent Substation	Cement truck stopped within nesting bird buffer along Rockford road.
Incident/Level 2 SCE NCR	6/22/2010	Yard 28 Materials Yard	Vehicle drove through bird buffer exclusion zone.
Project Memorandum	06/23/10	Segment 8 West CY	Vegetation clearing without preconstruction biological or clearance surveys within TRTP right-of-way.
Incident/Level 1 SCE NCR	06/24/10	Yard 28 Materials Yard	Verizon employee parked within a bird buffer exclusion zone.
Incident/Level 1 SCE NCR	7/6/10	Yard 28 Materials Yard	All Day Electric employee drove through a bird buffer exclusion zone.

### PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Erosion repairs underway at Tower 9 in Santa Clarita.



Figure 2: Completed erosion repairs at Tower 9 in Santa Clarita.



Figure 3: Bird-deterrent netting at Yard 28 used to discourage bird nesting in materials and equipment.