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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

**DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

**To:** Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 5, 2015  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #5 – December 15 to December 21, 2014

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Southern California Edison (SCE) Downs Substation Expansion Project.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction and Minor Project Change (MPC) activities are provided in Tables 1 and 2, respectively (below).

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** David DuBois was on site December 15, 2014.

## CPUC NTPs

### #1 Downs Substation Expansion Site

NTP #1 was issued on October 22, 2014 for the site preparation, grading, and construction of the Downs Substation expansion, adjacent to the existing Downs Substation on the corner of South Downs Street and West Ridgecrest Boulevard in Ridgecrest. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

#### Summary of Activity:

1. Work continued Monday through Thursday of the subject week. Leveling and compaction of the substation expansion area pad is progressing (see Figures 1&2).
2. Installation of a detention pond at the southeast portion of the site continues (see Figures 3&4).
3. Soil deliveries continued during the subject week.
4. No work was conducted on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

#### Environmental Compliance:

1. Cultural monitoring continued in the form of daily spotcheck monitoring during the subject week. A request to suspend cultural monitoring was reviewed and approved, since the majority of grading is complete and the ground surface is 100% disturbed.
2. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject week.
3. During the previous week, the CPUC EM was notified that the Project SWPPP Inspector, in consultation with Project biologists and Construction Manager, had crews remove a soil pile that had been placed outside the work limits at the northwest corner of the work area. During the subject week, the CPUC EM verified that much of the soil was removed and the remainder was compacted to match the existing grade (see Figures 5-9).
4. Soils remained moist after rains during the previous week, making dust easier to control. Water trucks were available as needed. No dust issues were observed by the CPUC EM.
5. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function.



6. Track-out is being kept to a minimal amount. Water trucks collecting water for dust suppression are driving along the roadway shoulder and staying out of traffic, which further reduces the amount of track out
7. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject week.

## Notices to Proceed

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

**Table 1**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**  
 (Updated 01/05/15)

| NTP #1 | Date Requested | Date Issued | Phase                      | Description  |
|--------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| NTP #1 | 9/4/14         | 10/22/14    | Downs Substation Expansion | Site preparation/grading, installation of substation components in the expanded Down's Substation footprint. |

## Minor Project Changes

Table 2 summarizes the Minor Project Changes for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

**Table 2**  
**Minor Project Changes (MPCs)**  
 (Updated 01/05/15)

| MPC    | Date Requested | Date Issued | Phase                      | Description  |
|--------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| MPC #1 | 12/5/14        | 12/15/14    | Downs Substation Expansion | Requests the use of an existing dirt roadway that connects the southwest corner of the work area to Church Avenue. |

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1 – Grading continued. View east, December 15, 2014.



Figure 2 – Grading continued. Leveling and compaction of the substation expansion area pad is progressing. View north, December 15, 2014.



Figures 3&4 – Panoramic view of detention basin grading progress, from southeast corner of site. Week #4 (12/9/14) above and Week #5 (12/15/14) below, view northwest.



Figures 5&6– Soil pile and disturbance are seen just outside the northwest corner of the Project work area. Week #4 (12/9/14) before removal and compaction (above), and Week #5 (12/15/14) after removal and compaction (below), view northeast.



Figures 7, 8 &9– Soil pile was removed/compacted, along Ridgecrest Boulevard. 12/4/14 top (prior to soil addition), 12/9/14 middle (after soil addition), 12/15/14 bottom (after soil removal/compaction), view west.