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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**  
**DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

**To:** Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 16, 2015  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #7 –January 5, 2015 to January 11, 2015

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 January 8, 2015.

## 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 Friday of the subject period. No work occurred Saturday or Sunday (January 10 & 11)
2. Preparation of the substation pad continued. Surveyor markers were positioned in anticipation of structure installation (see Figure 1). Gravel and materials are also being stored on the substation pad (see Figure 2).
3. Installation of Substation fencing and stormwater devices continued during the subject period (see Figure 3).
4. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) began during the subject week (see Figure 4)
5. Installation of a detention pond at the southeast portion of the site continues. The basin was lined with concrete during the subject period (see Figures 5&6).
6. Concrete was delivered to the substation expansion area during the subject period (see Figure 7)

#### Environmental Compliance:

1. Cultural monitoring has been suspended and did not occur during the subject period. The majority of grading is complete and the ground surface is 100% disturbed.
2. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject period. No biological resources were observed during the subject week.
3. No dust issues were observed by the CPUC EM.



4. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function. No desert tortoise have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.
5. Track-out is being kept to a minimal amount.
6. Following the approval of MPC #1(see Table 2 below), vehicles are using an alternate route to access the Project work area that avoids public traffic. During the previous reporting period, the CPUC EM observed that the entrance was being left open with a biological monitor positioned to check for wildlife (including desert tortoise). The CPUC EM notified the biologist and the construction lead that the MPC conditions required that the gate only be opened when vehicles are entering or exiting and be otherwise closed to maintain the desert tortoise barrier. During the subject period the gate was kept closed except when vehicles were entering and exiting (see Figure 7).
7. Concrete wash-outs are properly contained (see Figure 8).
8. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.

## Notices to Proceed

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

**Table 1**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**  
(Updated 01/16/15)

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 01/16/15)

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 – Surveyor markers have been installed on the Substation pad. View southeast, January 8, 2015.



Figure 2 – Gravel is positioned along the south edge of the substation pad. View from the southwest corner of the substation pad facing northeast, January 8, 2015.



Figure 3 – Fence installation continued. Storm water devices were installed. 12/23/14 above, 01/08/15 below, view northeast.



Figure 4 – Installation of a MEER building began during the subject period.. View from the northeast corner of the substation pad, facing southwest, January 8, 2015.



Figure 5 – Panoramic view of detention basin grading progress, from southeast corner of site. 12/15/14 above, 12/23/14 middle, 01/08/15 below, view northwest.



Figure 6 – Installation of the detention basin. View southwest, January 8, 2015.



Figure 7 – A concrete truck leaves the work area through the recently approved access per MPC #1. View eastward, January 8, 2015.



Figure 8 – Concrete wash is adequately contained. View south, January 8, 2015.