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PROJECT MEMORANDUM
DOWNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT

To: Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 4, 2015
Subject: Monitoring Report #21: April 20 to 26, 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 April 23, 2015.

Work Schedule: Work continued Monday through Sunday during the subject period.

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. Gravel and materials continued to be stored on the substation pad. The substation expansion pad is approximately 60% complete (see Figure 1).
2. Structure installation occurred at the substation expansion area during the subject period (see Figure 2).
3. Pole installation work occurred adjacent to the Substation during the subject period (see Figure 3).
4. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) and associated wiring continued during the subject period.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Traffic control measures were implemented along Downs Street during line work adjacent to the Substation (see Figure 4).
2. 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.
3. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject period. No sensitive biological resources were observed during the subject period.
4. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function along the property boundary fencing. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.



5. Following the approval of MPC #1 (see Table 2 below), an alternate route to access the Project work-area, that avoids public traffic, is available for use. However, during the subject period, construction traffic was minimal and accessed the site from West Ridgecrest Boulevard.
6. Track-out was minimal during the subject period. A street sweeper is onsite to manage roadway cleaning as necessary.
7. Concrete washouts are properly contained and generators were equipped with secondary containment.
8. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.
9. No dust issues were observed.

#2 Linear Portion

NTP #2 was issued on February 20, 2015 for the linear portion of the Project which includes 115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

Summary of Activity:

1. Fiber optic related activities were completed along short sections of the telecom route near the SCE Ridgecrest Service Center during the previous report period. Temporary patches in the roadway will be replaced with roadway asphalt in the coming weeks.
2. Crews continued work along overhead portions of the telecom route during the subject period (see Figure 5).
3. Crews conducted trenching and pole installation work at the Searles Substation and McGen Substation during the subject period (see Figures 6&7)
4. Linear work is approximately 60% complete.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Biologists and Cultural specialists are continuing preconstruction clearance and resource avoidance delineations for work areas along portions of the NTP #2 linear alignment.
2. Four desert tortoises were observed by biological monitors near linear work areas during the subject period. Wet weather during the subject period is believed to have elicited a spike in tortoise activity. Biological Monitors ensured that construction crews avoided the resources. On May 1, SCE ceased all construction activity within NTP #2 work areas because of the increase in desert tortoise activity.
3. Biologists continue to monitor bird nests along the NTP #2 linear segment. During the subject period four raven, one mourning dove, and one horned lark nest were active near work areas.

Notices to Proceed

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

Table 1
Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)
(Updated 05/04/15)

NTP #1	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	09/04/14	10/22/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Site preparation/grading, installation of substation components in the expanded Down's Substation footprint.
NTP #2	01/27/15	02/20/15	Remainder of the Project	115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades.

Minor Project Changes

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

Table 2
Minor Project Changes (MPCs)
(Updated 05/04/15)

MPC	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
MPC #1	12/05/14	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 PHOTOGRAPH



Figure 1 – Installation of the substation pad continued during the subject period. View northeast, from top: 01/27/15, 03/24/15, 03/30/15, 04/23/15.



Figure 2 – Structure installation continued within the Substation expansion area during the subject period. View north, 04/23/15.



Figure 3 – Line work occurred adjacent to the Downs Substation during the subject period. View north, 04/23/15.



Figure 4 – Traffic control measures were implemented during overhead work adjacent to Downs Substation. View south, 4/23/15.



Figure 5 – Linear work continued during the subject period. View west, 4/23/15.



Figure 6 – Pole installation work occurred at Searles Substation during the subject period. View south, 4/23/15.



Figure 7 – Pole installation and trenching work occurred at Searles Substation during the subject period. View northeast, 4/23/15.