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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**  
**DOWN'S SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

**To:** Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** May 26, 2015  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #24 – May 11 to May 24, 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 May 11 and May 13, 2015.

**Work Schedule:** Work continued Monday through Thursday (May 11-14) during the subject period. No work occurred Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17. Also, no work occurred for the entire week of Monday, May 18 through Sunday, May 24.

## **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 continue to be stored on the substation pad. The substation expansion pad is approximately 75% complete.
2. Structure installation occurred at the substation expansion area during the subject period (see Figures 1&2).
3. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) and associated wiring continued during the subject period.
4. Tubular steel pole (TSP) installation and associated line installation is complete (see Figure 3).

#### **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 sensitive biological resources were observed.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Track-out was minimal during the subject period. A street sweeper is onsite to manage roadway cleaning as necessary.
6. Generators were equipped with secondary containment.
7. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.
8. 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. Overhead telecom installation work was suspended during the report period #22 due to a spike in desert tortoise activity. This work will resume on July 6th, 2015.
2. On May 13, biologists and a line crew visited four poles along the alignment to tighten slack on previously installed cable-pulling ropes (see Figure 4). This activity helped to ensure safety and stability of the ropes until telecom work can resume in July. The pole sites were located along Trona Road (Highway 178), with one pole located approximately 1,500 ft. off of Trona Road on a dirt road. Appropriate measures were implemented to ensure tortoise protection during this activity. No tortoise or other special status resources were observed.
3. Linear work is approximately 60% complete.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Four desert tortoises were observed by biological monitors near linear work areas during report period #21. On May 1, SCE ceased all construction activity within NTP #2 work areas (with the exception of roadway repair work in the City of Ridgecrest and the cable-pull rope work noted above) because of the increase in desert tortoise activity. Work will resume July 6, 2015.
2. Biologists will be conducting new wildlife surveys for NTP #2 areas prior to the July 6th date for resuming linear activities. During the subject period five raven, one mourning dove, one rock pigeon, and one horned lark nest were active; however, no work occurred near these resources.

## Notices to Proceed

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

**Table 1**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**  
 (Updated 05/26/15)

<b>NTP #1</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 05/26/15)

<b>MPC</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>
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.
MPC #2	05/20/15	Under Review	Downs Substation Expansion	Installation of privacy slats on all chain link fencing encompassing the perimeter of the Downs Substation, including the expansion area.

## Project Photograph



Figure 1 – Installation of the substation structures continued during the subject period. View southwest, 5/11/15.



Figure 2 – Structure installation continued within the Substation expansion area during the subject period. View west, 05/13/15.



Figure 3 – TSP installation is complete at Downs Substation. View north, 05/11/15.



Figure 4 – Crews tighten pull rope between pole sites during the subject period. View west, 05/13/15.