



5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2285  
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, [www.aspeneg.com](http://www.aspeneg.com)

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

**To:** Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 11, 2016  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #61 – February 29 to March 6, 2016

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 March 3, 2016.

**Work Schedule:** Work occurred Monday through Thursday 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. Removal and modification work continued on components of the original Downs Substation (see Figure 1). Crews excavated, removed foundations, dismantled old 33 kV structures, and swapped old components for new ones. This work will continue over the coming weeks.
2. Materials continue to be stored onsite.
3. The substation expansion area is approximately 97% complete, with some limited work remaining (see Figure 2).
4. The expanded Downs Substation became operational December 3, 2015.
5. 115 kV transformer banks in the expansion area were energized on January 15, 2016.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. Landscaping was reviewed by the CPUC EM to confirm conformance with the approved Landscape Plan for the Downs Substation 115 kV Expansion; three Mexican fan palms shown in the plans were not installed because of potential safety risks associated with the trees being positioned below transmission lines along Ridgecrest Boulevard. SCE will notify the City of Ridgecrest of the changes and request their concurrence.
2. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Best Management Practices (SWPPP BMPs) were followed appropriately during the subject period.

3. Cultural monitors spot checked excavation work within the old substation area. No sensitive resources were identified.
4. Work areas were clean and free of trash with trashcan lids securely covered.
5. No track-out was observed during the subject period.
6. No dust issues were observed during the subject period.
7. Desert tortoise fencing was appropriately installed during fence installation work. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.

## #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 fiber optic work was completed on September 29, 2016.

### Environmental Compliance:

1. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, SCE requested that the deadline for submitting the final technical report, concerning paleontological monitoring for the project, be extended to December 21, 2015 to allow for the inclusion of radiocarbon dating results. The extension request was approved. On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Paleontological Resources Monitoring Final Report was submitted to the CPUC. The CPUC provided a detailed review of the report, with recommended corrections, to SCE on January 13, 2016.

## Notices to Proceed

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

**Table 1**  
**Notices to Proceed (NTPs)**  
(Updated 03/11/16)

NTP	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 03/11/16)

<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	05/26/15	Downs Substation Expansion	Installation of privacy slats on all chain link fencing encompassing the perimeter of the Downs Substation, including the expansion area.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1 – Crews applied gravel to the demolition areas during the subject period.  
View northwest 03/03/16.



Figure 2 – Upcoming work will include resurfacing and extending asphalt driveways. View west, 02/22/16.