



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

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 31, 2011  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 12, October 3 to October 9, 2011

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission and Red Bluff Substation Projects.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Additionally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace Requests (TEWS) is provided in Table 3.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Jamie Miner was on site October 6 and 7.

## **CPUC NTPS**

### **DPV2 CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL YARDS**

NTP #1 was issued for construction and set-up of construction yards, including the Devers, Desert Center 1 (DC1), Desert Center 2 (DC2), Blythe, Beaumont, Menifee, and Perris Construction Yards.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. Prior to the subject period, major construction activities had been conducted at all of the construction yards where development has occurred. These yards are now limited to minor activities associated with post-development, including mobilizing equipment and materials, designing and installing layout features, and fence maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. During welding activities associated with shaker plate installation at the Devers Construction Yard, a spotter was utilized and a fire extinguisher was present.
2. SCE EMs reported compliance with respect to project speed limits and BMP implementation during the subject period.

### **DPV2 EXCLUSIONARY FENCING AT 41 TOWER LOCATIONS**

NTP #2 was issued by CPUC for the installation of Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*) and flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) exclusionary fencing at 41 tower locations between the Devers Substation and Indio.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. During the subject period, exclusionary fencing activities were completed at several tower locations. These activities included mobilizing equipment and materials, implementing BMPs, trenching and backfilling within disturbance limits, and installation of fencing materials.



### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. SCE performed required clearance sweeps at each location immediately prior to conducting ground-disturbing activities.
2. Dust suppression included direct spray at locations where trenching and backfilling activities were being conducted. Subsequently, no issues associated with fugitive dust were observed or reported.
3. At the end of each workday, all equipment was moved to an offsite location for overnight storage.
4. During activities at Tower #2122, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) consisting of jurisdictional waters was flagged and avoided. An SCE biological monitor accompanied work crews and equipment to ensure that there was no entry into this area.
5. A cultural ESA was also field marked for avoidance. All machinery was escorted around the area by SCE monitors.
6. Areas that were previously identified as Coachella Valley milk-vetch locations were flagged for avoidance.

### **BEAUMONT #2 CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #3 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Beaumont #2 Construction Yard.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #3 were conducted during the subject period.

### **INDIO CONSTRUCTION YARD**

NTP #4 was issued for construction activities associated with the development of the Indio Construction Yard.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #4 were conducted during the subject period; however, the CPUC EM conducted a field verification of SCE's submitted pre-construction survey results and recommended approval to initiate construction activities on October 6 (see Figure 1).

### **RED BLUFF SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION**

NTP #5 was issued for upgrades of a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation.

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #5 were conducted during the subject period.

### **COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION**

NTP #6 was authorized for the construction and occupation of the following components associated with the CRS on non-BLM lands: (1) extension of an existing 33 kV distribution line to supply substation light and power; (2) installation of a telecommunications line; and, (3) access road improvements (including a new access road driveway) to serve the CRS.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #6 were conducted during the subject period.

**BLM NTPS**

**DPV2 AND COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION**

BLM NTP #1 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the DPV2 Project on BLM lands, which included the Colorado River Substation and associated components.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. Activities occurring at CRS during the subject period included implementation of BMPs, the ongoing installation of desert tortoise exclusionary fencing, and the development of a “drive and crush” road between the existing transmission line access road and the substation work area (see Figure 2).

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. During a site visit on October 8, the CPUC EM confirmed that no grading had occurred along the new “drive and crush” access road (see Figure 3). During this site visit, the CPUC EM also observed that there were no BMPs (plastic sheeting, sandbags, etc.) established for overnight equipment parking. The contractor stated that they would be sure to develop those areas later that day.
2. Dust suppression was maintained throughout the course of fence installation activities and access road development and usage.

**RED BLUFF SUBSTATION**

BLM NTP #2 and a Right-of-Way grant were issued by BLM on September 19, 2011 for construction of the Red Bluff Substation and the Desert Center Communication Site.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. The installation of desert tortoise fencing continued until completed on October 7. At that time, crews began installing wire guards around the entire perimeter for bighorn sheep exclusion.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. On October 4, one water truck driver discovered that his fuel cap was missing after driving the approximately 4.5-mile access road into the Red Bluff Substation construction site. The driver used a rag in place of the missing fuel cap and did not notify anyone. A few hours later the SCE general monitor discovered a small spill and identified it as diesel fuel. After investigating, the SCE general monitor identified the responsible water truck and driver. An immediate work stop was issued in the area and a gas cap was provided to the water truck driver before the truck was again moved. The SCE general monitor then then reported the incident and the appropriate personnel through the chain of command were subsequently notified per the Hazardous Substance Control, Waste Handling, and Emergency Response Procedures Mitigation Plan. In total, approximately two gallons of diesel fuel were spilled at 10-15 random locations along the access road. The contaminated soil was contained within a 55-gallon drum and the clean-up was completed at approximately 7pm that night. Dirk Geier (Catrac Construction) reported the spill to CalEMA and Riverside County Health Hazmat at 7:45 pm. The CPUC was notified of the incident as well. The incident occurred on BLM lands.
2. SCE began conducting desert clearance surveys of the fenced substation site on October 9. During these surveys, no special-status species, burrows, or weeds were identified.

3. Phase II burrowing owl surveys were conducted on October 10 and 11. No burrowing owls or owl sign were detected at the project site.
4. A total of four desert tortoise individuals that have been recently detected in areas adjacent to the project site are currently being monitored by SCE biologists.
5. SCE continued transplanting efforts during the subject period, including relocation of one large ocotillo and eleven cacti individuals (see Figures 4 and 5).

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) or Project Memoranda (PM) were issued for construction activities during the subject period.

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES DURING CONSTRUCTION (OTHER THAN CPUC EMS):**

None

**CPUC/BLM NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS)**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC/BLM Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the DPV2 and Red Bluff Projects, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**NTPs**  
(Updated 10/31/11)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<b>CPUC NTPs</b>				
NTP #1	04/28/11	06/23/11	Yards	Authorization to proceed with the development of the Devers, Desert Center 1, Desert Center 2, Summit, Blythe, Perris, Beaumont, and Menifee Construction Yards.
NTP #2	08/05/11	09/09/11	T/L	Installation of exclusionary fencing, Devers to Blythe. No cultural resources affected. Bio pending.
NTP #3	08/26/11	09/19/11	Yards	Construction of Beaumont Construction Yard #2.
NTP #4	09/09/11	09/20/11	Yards	Construction of Indio Construction Yard.
NTP #5	09/16/11	10/11/11	Red Bluff Distribution Line	Upgrades to a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation, non-BLM lands.
NTP #6	09/16/11	10/17/11	Substation	Authorization to proceed with improvements to the new Colorado River Substation on private lands, including extension of the existing 33 kV distribution line, installation of a new telecommunication line, and access road improvements.
	09/09/11	Under Review	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1); waiting for response from SCE on request for additional information.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – CRS to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and replacement of existing DPV1 overhead ground wire; non-BLM lands.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – Devers to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between the existing Devers Substation and the new Red Bluff Substation; non-BLM lands.
	10/08/11	Under Review	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<b>BLM NTPs</b>				
BLM NTP #1	08/26/11	09/19/11	DPV2 Substation, T/L	Authorization to proceed with construction of the DPV2 Transmission Line, Colorado River Substation, and associated project components on BLM lands.
BLM NTP #2	08/26/11	09/19/11	Substation,	Construction of Red Bluff Substation and associated project components, BLM lands.

## VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 10/31/11)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #1	05/06/11	05/24/11	Devers- Valley	Construction of traditional lattice towers instead of "Tetra" towers at two locations (Structures #1139 and #1140)
VR #2	04/21/11	05/26/11	All	Revisions to Mitigation Measure B-7d pertaining to seasonal restrictions for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard to support consistency with conditions provided in the Biological Opinion.
VR #3	07/12/11	07/18/11	DC 1 & DC 2 Yards	Utilize offsite well location and installation of 12,000-gallon water tank for filling trucks.
VR #4	07/06/11	07/21/11	Menifee Yard	Expansion of Menifee Construction Yard, which would include approximately 5 acres of additional disturbance within the western portion of the parcel, for material storage and other activities.
VR #5	04/22/11	07/28/11	CRS Devers and Valley Substations, Series Capacitor Site	Modification of APM A-7 regarding carpooling for construction at substations.
VR #6	07/07/11	08/01/11	Menifee, Beaumont, Perris Yards	Request to remove Mitigation Measures B-13a and B-13b, and to modify B-1a, B-1a (revised), and B-7e pertaining to Western Riverside County MSHCP compliance.
VR #7	08/11/11	08/22/11	Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, Blythe Yards	Request to utilize offsite water hydrants at Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, and Blythe Construction Yards.
VR #8	08/26/11	08/27/11	Beaumont Yard	Request to install seeded jute netting along the property frontage at Beaumont Construction Yard.
VR #9	08/24/11	09/01/11	DC 2 Yard	Request for installation of temporary power poles outside of Desert Center 2 Construction Yard.
VR #10	08/26/11	09/01/11	Devers & Summit Yards	Utilize offsite water locations needed for dust suppression at Devers and Summit Construction Yards.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
—	09/21/11	Retracted	Perris Yard	Request for additional workspace involving vegetation clearing, installation of BMPs, and temporary driveway installation at Perris Construction Yard.
VR #11	09/26/11	09/28/11	T/L	Two water sources for exclusionary fencing work.
VR #12	10/13/11	10/18/11	T/L	Request for parking/temporary staging of vehicles along existing access road within the Coachella Valley Preserve during exclusionary fencing activities.
VR #13	10/18/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to install a temporary guard structure along the entrance of the existing transmission line access road for Colorado River Substation.
VR #14	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
	10/25/11	Under Review	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
	10/26/11	Under Review	Substation	Request to formalize clarifications to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 regarding plant salvage performance standards.
	10/26/11	Under Review	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers Construction Yard.
	10/27/11	Under Review	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 10/31/11)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description
#1	07/20/11	07/27/11	Blythe Yard	Use of offsite hydrant and installation of water tank at location adjacent to Blythe Construction Yard
#2	07/28/11	08/04/11	Menifee Yard	Use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, and a flexible hose to supply water to a 4,000 gallon water truck.
#3	08/16/11	08/16/11	Menifee Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, approximately 200 yards north of previously approved location.
—	09/06/11	Retracted	Devers Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, including installation of above ground pipeline and water towers.
#4	09/29/11	09/29/11	T/L	Use of parking areas along primary access road within 400-ft total distance exclusionary fencing locations with exception of sites within the Coachella Valley Preserve.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** View east within boundaries of the Indio Construction Yard prior to project activities.



**Figure 2:** Desert tortoise fencing activities occurring at CRS site.



**Figure 3:** Development of the “drive and crush” road leading to the CRS site.



**Figure 4:** Stored plants ready for transplantation near the Red Bluff Substation site.





**Figure 5:** Ocotillo that had been transplanted outside of the Red Bluff Substation site.