



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:** December 14, 2011  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 17, November 7 to November 13, 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 (TEWS) and non-compliance activities are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Jamie Miner and Rosina Gallego were on site November 9 through November 11.

## **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. During the subject period, major construction activities were limited to the Summit Construction Yard and included trenching and backfilling associated with the installation of chain link and desert tortoise fencing, clearing of trash and debris, soil compaction, and gravel placement (see Figure 1).
2. Activities at the remaining yards consisted of ongoing dust suppression, material deliveries, office trailer maintenance, and general site maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. A small leak was observed and reported by the SCE General Monitor at the Summit Construction Yard on November 7. The SCE General Monitor identified a few small oil drips at the entrance of the yard. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that one of the gravel trucks was leaking oil from its dipstick. The leak was contained and fixed. Two small areas of ponded oil (approximately 2 oz.) were cleaned up. Soil removed in the cleanup was less than one cubic foot. Contaminated soils were disposed of in one of the spill kits located onsite (see Figure 2).
2. On November 8, Thomas Kelly (Riverside County) conducted a site visit at the Summit Construction Yard to inspect compliance with the PM10 Plan. He stated that all was in compliance and no follow up items were identified.
3. On November 10, a minor sewage spill occurred onsite at the Beaumont Construction Yard as a result of back up in an existing sewer pipe. Approximately two square feet, immediately surrounding the leak, of surface soils were directly contaminated (see Figure 3). Impacted soils were contained within two 55-gallon drums. The pipe was exposed by digging around it to allow access for a plumber to make repairs, which occurred the following day. The CPUC EM was notified of the spill immediately and was updated throughout the following day as repairs were scheduled and conducted.



4. The CPUC EMs confirmed that BMPs, including dust suppression, secondary containment, stabilized ingress/egress, and adequate vehicle and equipment parking areas were implemented throughout the subject period at all active construction yards.

## **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. All major construction activities associated with exclusionary fencing under NTP #2 were completed prior to the subject period.

## **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. All major construction activities associated with the Indio Construction Yard under NTP #4 were completed prior to the subject period. Activities occurring during the subject period at this location included minor site maintenance and deliveries only.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On November 9, the SCE General Monitor reported that no trash or vehicles were observed onsite and there were no signs of track-out.

## **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 on non-BLM lands.

### **Summary of Activity:**

1. Construction activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line commenced during the subject period. These included switching existing poles with new poles, primarily along Aztec Road (see Figure 4).

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On November 9, the CPUC EM reminded the contractor (PAR) that the western pull site would need to be staked and verified if it was going to be used. It was reported by the SCE Biological Monitor on November 10 that the western pull site that was initially proposed would not be required.

2. On November 10, the SCE General Monitor reported two separate minor leaks, each associated with construction of the distribution line. The first observation was a small oil leak resulting from a loose bolt on a drill truck. Contaminated soil containing approximately 1 oz. of leaked oil was removed and placed in a container and taken offsite. The bolt was tightened and the leak stopped. The second leak observed consisted of approximately 4 oz. of hydraulic fluid stemming from a ruptured hose on one of the construction vehicles. This leak occurred along a paved portion of Aztec Road and was contained through the use of absorbent pads. A bucket and a containment pool were placed under the truck until the hose was replaced and the leak was resolved (see Figure 5).
3. On November 10, the CPUC EM observed all equipment being staged and utilized along the existing Aztec Road and the road shoulder.

## **COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION (CRS) 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. All activities associated with setting distribution poles were completed by November 8, with the exception of one remaining pole located within the CRS boundaries. The rig that is currently drilling the water well is located in an area that restricts the placement of this last pole.
2. Activities occurring during the subject period included drilling and setting up remaining distribution poles, anchoring wires, and demobilizing equipment. All equipment associated with construction of the distribution line was removed from the site on November 8.
3. Additional activities associated with installation of the underground telecommunications line near the Buck Substation including offloading of equipment and materials, layout of trench line for excavation, hand spotting manhole locations for excavation, and spot checking for existing irrigation lines for pressure and non-pressure water, trenching, placement of fiber optic conduit, and backfilling.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. No non-compliance issues were reported by the SCE General or Biological Monitors during the subject period. The CPUC EMs did not identify any current or outstanding issues during site visits to the project area during the subject period.
2. SCE Biological Monitors reported that daily sweeps were conducted at all work sites in the Red Bluff distribution line area throughout the subject period.
3. A site visit to the northern telecommunications line project area was conducted by Kevin Nelson (Assistant Public Works Director, City of Blythe) on November 7.
4. During the subject period, the SCE General Monitor reported several incidents related to non-project traffic speeding through the project area. The SCE General Monitor notified SCE and the California Highway Patrol of the concern. As a result, the SCE General Monitor reported that one speeding vehicle was cited by CHP on November 10.

## **DPV1 MINOR RELOCATION**

NTP #7 was authorized for the construction activities associated with the minor relocation of the existing Devers-Valley 500 kV transmission line as part of the DPV2 Project. These activities include the construction of stub roads, foundations, steel assembly, erection of four lattice steel towers (LSTs), and the installation of associated hardware assemblies and interconnecting wires. Activities will also include the removal of structures, foundations, associated hardware assemblies, and interconnecting wires for three existing LSTs.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #7 were conducted during the subject period.

**TRANSMISSION LINE: RED BLUFF SUBSTATION TO COLORADO RIVER SUBSTATION**

NTP #8 was authorized for the construction of 31 miles of overhead 500 kV transmission line from CRS to the new Red Bluff Substation and the replacement of five miles of existing overhead ground wire (OHGW) with new optical ground wire (OPGW) on the existing Devers—Palo Verde No. 1 (DPV1) transmission line. Project elements associated with NTP #8 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #8 were conducted during the subject period.

**TRANSMISSION LINE: DEVERS SUBSTATION TO RED BLUFF SUBSTATION**

NTP #9 was authorized for the construction of 81-miles of overhead 500 kV transmission line from the existing Devers Substation to the new Red Bluff Substation. Project elements associated with NTP #9 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #9 were conducted during the subject period.

**TRANSMISSION LINE: DEVERS SUBSTATION TO VALLEY SUBSTATION**

NTP #10 was authorized for the construction of the overhead 500 kV transmission line from the existing Devers Substation to the existing Valley Substation, excluding the portion of the line that would traverse the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) property. Project elements associated with NTP #10 include new stub roads and maintenance of existing access roads, development of wire set up sites (e.g., pull sites, splicing sites, tensioning sites), and the installation of tower foundations, structures, wires, and guard structures.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #9 were conducted during the subject period.

**DEVERS #2 AND INDIO #2 CONSTRUCTION YARDS**

NTP #11 was authorized for the construction and occupation of the Devers #2 and Indio #2 Construction Yards.

**Summary of Activity:**

1. No activities associated with NTP #11 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. Major activities were limited to 24-hour drilling associated with zone testing of the water well throughout the subject period.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. On November 7, two representatives from El Capitan Construction (SCE SWPPP Coordinators) conducted a site visit. As reported by the SCE General Monitor, the SWPPP Coordinator believed that water from the zone testing that was being surface released was not in compliance. As a result, waste water from the zone testing was contained within a tanker until a resolution was secured. During the bi-weekly conference call between SCE, Aspen, and the resource agencies on the following day, SCE indicated that they had received verbal approval from the Riverside County Health Department and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to continue surface spreading of release water from zone testing. Subsequently, construction crews installed a primary and secondary waterline and sprinkler system within the substation disturbance boundaries to control surface release flows and contain them within project site boundaries (see Figure 6).
2. On November 10, the CPUC EM suggested that the de-sander pit be covered when not actively being used to prevent wildlife from entering and becoming trapped. SCE General Monitors relayed suggestion to the construction crews and the pit was covered (see Figure 7).
3. SCE General Monitors reported that all new project personnel were WEAP trained throughout the subject period.
4. SCE Biological Monitors reported that clearance sweeps and escorting of construction personnel were conducted throughout the subject period.

### **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. Erection of the drill rig for the water well was completed by November 8 and 24-hour drilling operations were initiated that evening (see Figure 8).
2. Activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line (on BLM lands) replacement of existing wooden poles with new ones.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

1. All tailings from drilling were contained within tanks located onsite and release water was either reused or fully contained within tanks. This will continue until approval from appropriate agencies is obtained for surface spreading.
2. All light fixtures associated with the drilling rig are pointed downward (approximately 30 degrees) and away from the freeway (see Figure 9).

No non-compliance incidents were reported during the subject period (see Tables 4 and 5).

### **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 12/14/11)

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.
NTP #7	09/09/11	12/01/11	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1).
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/01/11	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.
NTP #9	10/08/11	12/02/11	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.
NTP #10	10/08/11	12/02/11	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 #11	11/08/11	12/09/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
<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 12/14/11)

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.
—	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	10/26/11	11/10/11	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers Construction Yard.
VR #14	11/10/11	11/28/11	Substation	Request for increased well pumping to support civil work, including access road improvements, at Colorado River Substation.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
VR #15	12/13/11	Under review	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.
<b>BLM</b>				
BLM #1	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.
BLM #2	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
BLM #3	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
	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.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 12/14/11)

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.

**NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS**

A summary of CPUC Non-Compliance Reports and Project Memorandum is provided in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**  
**CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA**  
(Updated 12/14/11)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
<b>CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)</b>			
PM #1	10/28/11	CRS Dist. Line	Construction vehicles leaving marked disturbance limits at two locations along Red Bluff distribution line.



## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Installation of desert tortoise exclusionary fencing at the Summit Construction Yard.



**Figure 2:** Soil from small oil leak being removed and placed within a spill kit at the Summit Construction Yard.



**Figure 3:** The extent of contaminated soil that was removed as a result of a sewage leak at the Beaumont Construction Yard.



**Figure 4:** Replacement of old poles with new wooden poles along Aztec Road for the Red Bluff distribution line.



**Figure 5:** Cleanup of hydraulic leak from the line truck along the Red Bluff distribution line. Note absorbent pads used to remove fluid and pool used to contain additional fluid.



**Figure 6:** Surface spreading of zone-testing release water at CRS. Note water line set up in background.



**Figure 7:** De-sander pit covered at CRS upon the recommendation of the CPUC EM.



**Figure 8:** Drill rig erected and operational at Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 9:** Note angle of light fixtures (in background) around the Red Bluff Substation drill rig pointed downward.