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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

To: Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 21, 2011
Subject: Weekly Report 20, November 28 to December 04, 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 28 through December 4.

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. All major construction activities for the construction yards covered under this NTP were completed prior to the subject period. At this time, activities at these locations are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
2. The CPUC EM conducted a field verification of the location identified for underground temporary power at the Devers #1 Construction Yard on December 2. Authorization to initiate construction activities was provided to SCE by the CPUC EM on the same day.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE General Monitors conducted spot checks at the Devers #1 and Beaumont #1 Construction Yards on November 30. Spot checks of the Summit, Desert Center #1, Desert Center #2, and Blythe Construction Yards were conducted by the SCE General Monitor on December 1 and the Menifee and Perris Construction Yards on December 2. During these spot checks, the SCE General Monitor reported and documented that no construction track-out was observed, ingress/egress routes were stabilized, speed limits were posted, vehicles and equipment were located on secondary containment, trash bins were covered when not in use, no spills or leaks were observed, and adequate dust suppression activities were implemented.
2. On December 1, the SCE General Monitor reported that high winds had resulted in damage to the chain link fencing and privacy screening at the Desert Center #1 Construction Yard (see Figure 1).
3. SCE Biological Monitors conducted biological sweeps at the Desert Center #1, Desert Center #2, Devers #1, and Blythe Construction Yards on November 28. Biological sweeps of the Beaumont, Perris, and Menifee Construction Yards were conducted by SCE Biological Monitors on November 29.



During these sweeps, the SCE Biological Monitors reported that parked equipment and construction materials were inspected for possible nests or small animals that could be using these areas for shelter. No special-status species were observed at any of the construction yards 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. All major construction activities associated with exclusionary fencing under NTP #2 were completed prior to the subject period.

Environmental Compliance:

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a spot check of eleven CVFTL/FTHL exclusionary fencing tower locations on November 28, ten locations on November 29, ten locations on November 30, and ten locations on December 1. As reported by the SCE General Monitor during those inspections, the fencing was damaged at two locations, including Tower #2132 and #2133 (see Figures 2 and 3). The fencing had been driven over and the gate at Tower #2132 was down. No issues with the exclusionary fencing or adjacent Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing were observed at any additional locations.

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. The SCE General Monitor conducted a spot check of the Indio Construction Yard on December 1. No construction activities were observed; however, deliveries of steel and cable were expected later that day. The SCE General Monitor reported that BMPs were in place and effective.
2. The SCE Biological Monitor conducted a biological sweep of the Indio Construction Yard on November 28. The SCE Biological Monitor reported that the skeleton for the garage that is to house the construction vehicles was completed and the surrounding bird netting was in the process of being installed. A similar structure was being constructed around the portable toilets. No special-status species were observed.

RED BLUFF SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION (NON-BLM LANDS)

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. Activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line on non-BLM lands that occurred during the subject period consisted of clipping the new wire that was strung the previous week, energizing the new wire, and removal of old wire and hot braces. A capacitor bank was installed along the western portion of the distribution line on November 29.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE Biological Monitors and Cultural Monitors were present throughout the subject period during all activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line on non-BLM lands. No compliance issues were reported.

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. All activities associated with setting distribution poles were completed prior to the subject period, 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 that occurred along the distribution line alignment during the subject period were limited to stringing of telecommunications line on newly installed and existing wooden poles.
3. Activities associated with installation of the underground telecommunications line near the Buck Substation continued. These included trenching, installation of fiber optic cable, inspection, and backfilling (see Figure 4).

Environmental Compliance:

1. All activities associated with the stringing of the telecommunications line occurred along the existing access road between the new distribution line alignment and Blythe. SCE Biological Monitors conducted daily sweeps of all work areas and escorted construction vehicles and equipment prior to any construction activities.

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 construction 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 construction 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 construction 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. No major construction activities were conducted during the subject period as zone testing results from the water well are pending.

2. Activities associated with the CRS distribution line (on BLM-lands) that occurred throughout the subject period included stringing of telecommunications line on newly installed and existing wooden poles.

Environmental Compliance:

1. On November 29, an email was distributed by BLM regarding confirmed mortalities to kit fox as a result of canine distemper at the Genesis Solar Project site, located in the same general region as the CRS site. As a result, BLM instructed that hazing kit foxes from dens be immediately halted at the Genesis site and all adjacent project sites. Although these specific instructions were not directed at the CRS site, the BLM asked that SCE remove one-way doors, which were installed the previous day, from all active den sites. SCE Biological Monitors were briefed on the situation and were directed to follow forthcoming BLM protocols. In the meantime, SCE Biologists continued to conduct kit fox surveys in the surrounding habitat (see Figure 5).
2. All activities associated with the stringing of the telecommunications line occurred along the existing access road between the new distribution line alignment and Blythe. SCE Biological Monitors conducted daily sweeps of all work areas and escorted construction vehicles and equipment prior to any construction activities.

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. Construction activities associated with water well drilling were limited to zone testing throughout the subject period.
2. The water from drilling, previously stored in tanks, was released at the higher, southern portion of the site through a sprinkler system on November 30 to make room for the water from zone testing in the tanks (see Figure 6). By December 1, the third zone was tested and the well was pumping at 30 gallons per minute. On December 2, the borehole was graveled and everything was shut down waiting for test results and well design.
3. Activities associated with the Red Bluff distribution line on BLM lands that occurred during the subject period consisted of clipping the new wire that was strung the previous week, energizing the new wire, and removal of old wire and hot braces (see Figure 7). A fuse box was installed along the eastern portion of the distribution line on November 29.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE General Monitors reported that all BMPs were satisfactorily implemented, including secondary containment and dust suppression. SCE Biological Monitors conducted daily sweeps during all activities and did not report any special-status species observations.
2. In order to ensure containment of surface water releases, SWPPP barriers were constructed along primary and secondary drainages. These included silt fencing and sandbags.
3. On November 28, the SCE Cultural Monitor expressed concerns to the distribution line contractor that dragging wire during the removal process could easily damage any archaeological materials in the area (on BLM lands). The contractor suggested that they could simply cut the old wire in those areas to avoid impacts to cultural ESAs. This technique was then implemented.

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 12/21/11)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
CPUC NTPs				
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.
BLM NTPs				
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 12/21/11)

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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
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.
VR #15	12/13/11	12/14/11	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.
BLM				
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 12/21/11)

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 12/21/11)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)			
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: High winds resulting in minor damage to the fencing and privacy screening at the Desert Center #1 Construction Yard.



Figure 2: View along stub road of damaged exclusionary fencing at Tower #2132.



Figure 3: Damaged exclusionary fencing along northern boundary at Tower #2133.



Figure 4: View south along underground portion of the CRS distribution alignment adjacent to Buck Substation.



Figure 5: Biologists conducting kit fox survey transects adjacent to the CRS site.



Figure 6: Surface release of water through the sprinkler system installed at Red Bluff Substation site.



Figure 7: Line crew clipping in new wire along the Red Bluff distribution line (on BLM lands).