



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:** March 14, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 27, January 16 to January 22, 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line and Red Bluff Substation Projects. This report is organized as follows:

- Transmission Line Construction
- Substation Construction and Upgrades
- Construction Yards and Other Workspaces

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 (EMs):** Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

### TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

#### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation to Red Bluff Substation
  - Site staking activities occurred from Tower 2635 through 2650 and CR1-1W through CR1-3W.
  - BMP installation activities occurred at CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-2W and CR1-3W and DPV2 Towers 2649 and 2650 (see Figure 1).
  - Vegetation clearing and foundation excavation activities occurred at Towers CR1-2W and 2649.
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
  - BMP installation activities occurred at Red Bluff Loop-In Towers RB1-1W and RB2-1W.
  - Approved access road signs were installed between Towers 2503 and 2531.
3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation
  - Equipment was mobilized to Tower 1061/R1 and vegetation clearing and BMP installation occurred at 1061/R1 and 1064/R4 (see Figure 2).
  - Site staking activities occurred at Towers 1053, 1054, 1061/R1, and 1064/R4.
  - Site verification surveys occurred from Tower 1005 through 1056.

#### Environmental Compliance

1. On January 17 a delivery of a bulldozer to the CRS Loop-In tower sites was refused by the SCE General Monitor due to excessive mud observed on the equipment. The bulldozer was taken offsite to be washed and was delivered again later that same day. Upon the second delivery, the equipment was approved by the SCE General Monitor.



2. On January 18 several incidents related to working outside of project disturbance limits were observed and reported. Initially, one of the vehicles that was delivering and installing BMPs drove outside of the delineated disturbance limits associated with Tower CR1-2W. The incident was directly observed by the CPUC LEM who was onsite at the time. Approximately one minute later, the SCE monitors reported a second incident in which the same BMP crew drove outside of the delineated disturbance limits again. During the second incident, the vehicle became stuck in the sand and was pulled out with a bulldozer. The final incident, again with the same BMP crew, occurred less than ten minutes to the previous incidents at Tower 2649. During this incident, the vehicle attempted to enter the delineated work site from an undesignated route extending from the main CRS access road. No biological or cultural resources were adversely impacted as a result of any of these incidents; however, Project Memorandum #2 was issued by the CPUC on January 19 (see Table 4). On January 20, SCE monitors reported that contractors had retaken the WEAP training to emphasize the requirements of staying within project disturbance limits.
3. During vegetation clearing at Tower 1064, the skid steer operator began clearing vegetation outside of the approved disturbance limits for the site (see Figure 3). The general onsite monitor immediately stopped the operator and the damaged was assessed by both biological and archaeological monitors. No impact to wildlife, special-status plant species, or cultural resources was observed. To prevent this from occurring again, straw wattles were immediately placed along the perimeter of the site and additional staking was added to further define the disturbance area limits.
4. Fugitive dust suppression on access roads and tower sites with active construction on the Devers to Valley transmission line was noted by both SCE monitors and CPUC EMs (see Figure 4).
5. Biological and Archeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.

A total of one Project Memorandum was issued during the subject period for Transmission Line Construction. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

**SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES**

**Summary of Activity**

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – BMP installation, vegetation clearing and grading continued along the CRS access road and within the northern and eastern portions of the substation limits.
2. Wire stringing activities associated with the CRS distribution line occurred beginning at the unpaved portion of Blythe Road on the southern side of the I-10 freeway.
3. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – No major construction activities occurred at the Red Bluff Substation during the subject period. Minor activities included fugitive dust control, BMP maintenance, and material staging.

**Environmental Compliance**

1. On January 20 the SCE General Monitor reported that water resulting from a leak from an onsite Baker tank had escaped the project area and flowed approximately 100 yards southwest of the exclusionary fencing at CRS. This incident occurred during well pumping activities. Consequently, the well pump was immediately shut off and the leak was stopped. It was determined that no sensitive resources were impacted. The proposed resolution was to install a bypass valve on the tank to reroute water to an approved location.

2. CDFG issued a buffer reduction associated with a red-tailed hawk nest located on existing DPV1 Tower M132-T1 on January 20. The buffer reduction allowed for construction traffic to continue traveling along the CRS access road adjacent to where the nest is located.
3. The CPUC EM identified an issue with the desert tortoise exclusionary fencing along the entrance gate to the Red Bluff Substation on January 16. The bottom fringe of the fencing had become bent in such a way as to allow small tortoises to pass underneath (see Figure 5). It was confirmed by the CPUC EM the following day that the appropriate repairs had been made.
4. An unanticipated cultural resource was discovered on January 20 during vegetation clearing within the CRS disturbance limits. Upon observing the discovery, the SCE Cultural Monitor immediately directed the contractor to avoid the area until the site could be fully documented. The site was flagged and ESA signage was installed. The BLM, CPUC, and THPO were notified the same day and SCE was instructed by the agencies to conduct data recovery of the site, which occurred on January 23.
5. Biological and General Monitors were onsite throughout construction activities at CRS and the Red Bluff Substation. There were no non-compliance issues or special-status species observations reported by the SCE Monitors during the subject time period.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Substation Construction and Upgrade activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

**CONSTRUCTION YARDS AND OTHER WORKSPACES**

**Summary of Activity:**

Non-Federal Lands:

1. Blythe Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
2. Desert Center 1 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
3. Desert Center 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
4. Chiriaco Summit Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
5. Indio Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
6. Indio 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
7. Devers Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
8. Devers 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
9. Beaumont Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
10. Beaumont 2 Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
11. Menifee Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.
12. Perris Yard – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. The SCE General Monitor conducted a weekly spot check of all of the construction yards. No compliance issues were reported during the subject period.
2. Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period. No compliance issues or special-status species observations were reported.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Construction yard activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**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 03/14/12)

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	12/02/11	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	12/10/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
NTP #12	01/20/12	02/03/12	Yards	Construction of Desert Center 3 Construction Yard.
<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 03/14/12)

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 #1 Construction Yard.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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.
VR #16	12/22/11	01/04/12	Project-wide	Request to approve alternate/extended work hours project-wide.
VR #17	01/04/12	01/09/12	Project-wide	Request to utilize existing approved construction yard and/or exclusionary fencing water sources for transmission line construction needs.
VR #18	10/25/12 10/26/12	Denied 01/13/12	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Request to allow the usage of helicopter landing zone H9-DV as a replacement for H8-DV.
VR #20	01/13/12	01/19/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
VR#21	01/20/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Lake Tamarisk area for dust suppression
VR #22	01/25/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request to install 10,000-gallon standing water tanks at three locations.
VR #23	01/27/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request to modify NTP #10 and MM AQ-1g for additional t-line helicopter construction.
VR #24	02/08/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request for approval to purchase MWD water credits in lieu of Colorado River water credits due to the unavailability of water allotments within the Colorado River Basin.
VR #25	02/10/12	02/28/12	T/L	Request for use of existing DPV1 access roads and spur/stub roads for parking and staging of vehicles and equipment.
VR #26	02/23/12	Under review	T/L	Request to modify disturbance areas associated with Red Bluff loop in towers RB
VR #27	03/09/12	Under review	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
<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.
DNA #1	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
DNA #2	12/21/11		Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.
DNA #3	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Request to relocate a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District distribution line located at the Series Capacitor site.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
DNA #4	02/01/12	Under review	T/L	Request for the addition of proposed helicopter construction and maintenance platforms to the description included in the Project Refinements 1 and 2 documents.
DNA #5	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 03/14/12)

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**

Table 4 provides a summary of reported non-compliance incidents.

**TABLE 4**  
**CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA**  
(Updated 03/14/12)

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 CRS distribution line.
PM #2	01/18/12	Tower 2649/CR1-2W	DPV2 Construction contractor vehicle driving outside of the approved tower and access road disturbance area limits.
PM #3	03/08/12	Tower 1059 & 1060	Failure to comply with MM B-5 which requires that 300-foot buffers are established around active bird nests. Working within unapproved active nest buffers.
<b>CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)</b>			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unapproved removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.

## Project Photographs



**Figure 1.** BMPs installed at Tower CR1-2W



**Figure 2.** Setting up for vegetation clearing at Tower 1061.





**Figure 3.** Vegetation clearing outside of disturbance area at Tower 1064.



**Figure 4.** Dust suppression on access road to Tower 1061.



**Figure 5.** Desert tortoise fencing associated with entrance gate to Red Bluff Substation in need of repairs.