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## PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 3, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 31, February 13 to February 19, 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 (EM):** Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

### TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

#### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) to Red Bluff Substation
  - Tower assembly was initiated at CRS loop-in Tower CR1-3W.
  - Foundation drilling activities occurred at CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-3W (see Figure 1).
  - Grading activities occurred at tower pads and/or along the access road associated with Towers 2648-2650 and CRS Loop-In Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, CR1-4W, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E.
  - Vegetation clearing was conducted at Tower 2648 and CRS Loop-in Tower CR1-1W.
  - Installation and maintenance of BMPs occurred at Tower 2648 and CRS Loop-in Tower CR1-2W and CR1-3W. BMP maintenance activities were conducted at Tower 2634 and CRS Loop-in Tower CR1-1W.
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
  - Survey staking was conducted at Towers 2444, 2449–2455, 2503–2506, 2510–2521, and 2547.
  - No major construction activities were conducted along this segment during the subject period.
3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation
  - Foundation drilling occurred at Towers 1061, R1, and 1064 (see Figure 2).
  - Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Tower 1061.
  - Shaker plate installation occurred at right-of-way (ROW) entrances to Towers 1008, 1007, 1026 through 1031, and from Highway 111.



- BMP installation occurred at Tower 1013, 1016, 1024, and 1031 (see Figure 3).
- BMP maintenance occurred at Towers 1018, 1019, 1021, 1022–1024, 1027–1031, 1051–1054, 1057–1060, 1061/R1, 1062/R2, 1064/R4, and 1065.
- Site verification surveys occurred at Towers 1011, 1013-1016, 1018, 1025, 1026, and 1056.

### **Environmental Compliance**

- Fugitive dust control was noted by SCE general and biological monitors at all construction sites and access roads. CPUC EM's also observed adequate dust control at all construction sites and access roads.
- Biological and Archaeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- Several foxtail cacti were identified during site staking activities at Tower 2452. Each cactus within the disturbance area was flagged for subsequent relocation.
- Approved monitors for Coachella Valley milk-vetch were onsite for all ground disturbing activities at applicable tower sites and completed clearance surveys before construction occurred.
- A front loader requiring a large turn radius due to a large case-on loading, accidentally ventured about 2 feet off the road and ran over an underground, 2-inch, PVC water pipe. The water began to flow from the ground, but eventually stopped. The landowner then arrived on site, investigated, and claimed it was an inactive pipe and not of concern. No resources were impacted.
- CPUC EM observed a John Deere front loader drive off of the ROW between Towers 1061 and 1063 into an area designated as jurisdictional waters (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM proceeded to inform the onsite monitor at 1064, where the front loader was being utilized. The monitor then informed the crew foreman of the issue and called the SCE Field Lead. The field leads evaluated the site and no vegetation was impacted. The area was documented as disturbed (0.013 acre) and will be added to the project database.
- A small diesel fuel spill (less than 1 gallon) occurred at Tower 1011. The likely cause of the spill was from non-project individuals trying to steal the fuel from a Front Loader and Water Truck that were parked onsite (see Figure 5). The site was cleaned up and the contaminated soils were removed from the site for proper disposal.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Transmission Line activities. 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) – Construction activities associated with the development of the substation that occurred during the subject period included site grading, trenching, soil scarification, and potholing. BMPs were installed around the substation laydown yards. Grading activities continued along the primary access road between Wiley's Well Road and CRS (see Figure 6). Road recontouring occurred at the road turnout areas associated with the primary access road (see Figure 7). Additionally, crews continued to construct culverts along the road.
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – Line splicing activities associated with the telecomm line were conducted along the wooden pole alignment between CRS and the paved portion of Blythe Road to the east.

3. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – Vegetation clearing activities were initiated within the substation site during the subject period (see Figure 8). Additional activities that occurred at the substation site included the installation of wooden distribution line poles associated with providing power to the office trailers along the western boundary and water well pumping. An altitude survey, including monument installation, was performed.

### **Environmental Compliance**

1. SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
2. Approved avian specialists conducted daily monitoring activities at existing DPV1 tower locations along the primary CRS access road where active raptor nests are present, including Towers 126-3 and 127-3.
3. The appropriate nesting bird surveys were conducted throughout the Red Bluff Substation site prior to initiating vegetation removal activities.
4. On February 15, two SCE Cultural Monitors observed a dead kit fox located along the CRS access road, between the road berms and the straw wattle BMPs. The SCE Biological Monitor was immediately notified and an ESA barrier was installed around the carcass to prevent disturbance. The CDFG veterinarian was contacted for instruction due to the ongoing distemper outbreak in the region. A short time after the discovery, the carcass was collected by Nicole Bentivegna (SCE Biological Field Lead) and Ryan Hilgris (SCE Kit Fox Biologist), packaged, and placed in a cooler for transport to UC Davis for examination and testing per mitigation requirements. The CPUC EM and the BLM were also promptly notified and the incident was recorded as a mortality event in SCE's FRED database.
5. The CPUC EM observed several large scrapers and articulated water trucks exceeding the 15 mph speed limit, resulting in moderate levels of fugitive dust, along the CRS access road on February 15. The following day, the CPUC EM was notified by the onsite SCE monitors that the speeding issue had been addressed at the morning tailboard and that vehicles were adhering to project speed limits.
6. CDFG responded to a request to remove an inactive stick nest located on existing DPV1 Tower 127-T3 via email on February 17. The email authorized removal of the nest provided SCE conduct monitoring to assure that the nest was not being used.

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 (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.
2. Desert Center 1 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
3. Desert Center 2 Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

4. Chiriaco Summit Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
5. Indio Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
6. Indio 2 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
7. Devers Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
8. Devers 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.
9. Beaumont Yard (Material Yard) - No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.
10. Beaumont 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.
11. Menifee Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.
12. Perris Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. This yard is not currently being utilized.

**Environmental Compliance:**

1. Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period.

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 04/03/12)

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 #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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 04/03/12)

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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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.
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.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
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 #21 Mod	03/16/12	03/21/12	T/L	Modification to VR #21. Request installation of two driveways and an underground water line adjacent to the approved stand tank locations at the Lake Tamarisk Resort water source.
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	03/09/12	03/16/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located on a private date farm.
VR #27	03/09/12	03/20/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
VR #28	03/22/12	03/30/12	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
VR #29	03/22/12	To CPUC	T/L	DVP1 minor relocation of outage pull sites.
	03/16/12	Under review	T/L	HLS H7-DV boundary modification.
	03/16/22	Under review	Substation	Red Bluff Loop-in pull site modifications.
	03/23/12	Under review	Substation	CRS pull sites.
	03/28/12	Under review	Substation	Request for HLZ (helicopter landing zone) at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower site RB1-2W.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<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	02/01/12	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.
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.
<b>USFS</b>				
USFS-1	03/15/12	Under Review	T/L	SBNF engineering modifications (revised disturbance areas).

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/03/12)

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 04/03/12)

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.** Preparation for drilling activities at Tower CR3-1W.



**Figure 2.** Foundation drilling at Tower 1061.



**Figure 3.** BMP installation at Tower 1013.



**Figure 4.** Tracks from where a front loader ventured off of the approved ROW into a jurisdictional water.





**Figure 5.** Diesel spill from theft of fuel from water truck at Tower 1011. (Photo courtesy of Dean Ritter).



**Figure 6.** View east of graded primary access road at CRS.



**Figure 7.** Recontouring activities at the turnout areas associated with the CRS access road.



**Figure 8.** View east from southwest corner of the Red Bluff Substation site where vegetation clearing had occurred.