



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 3, 2009
Subject: Report #1: February 22, 2009 –February 28, 2009

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM, Lynn Stafford, was on site February 23rd through 25th, and February 27th, 2009.

The SCE El Casco System Project includes the following components:

- Construction of the new El Casco 220/115/12-kilovolt (kV) substation within the Norton Younglove Reserve, Riverside County, California.
- Replacement of approximately 15.4 miles of existing single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines with new, higher capacity single-circuit 115 kV subtransmission lines and replacement of support structures within existing SCE ROWs in the Cities of Banning and Beaumont and unincorporated Riverside County.
- Rebuilding 115 kV switchracks within Zanja and Banning Substations in the Cities of Yucaipa and Banning, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, respectively.
- Installation of telecommunications equipment at the El Casco Substation and at SCE's existing Mill Creek Communication Site, San Bernardino County.
- Installation of fiber optic cables within public streets and on existing SCE structures between the Cities of Redlands and Banning in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, respectively.

Notice to Proceed #1 was granted by CPUC on February 23rd, 2009 for vegetation clearing activities at the future El Casco Substation Site located in the Norton Younglove Reserve Area in Riverside County. The intent of the request was to remove vegetation at the substation site prior to the commencement of nesting season.

REMOVAL OF VEGETATION AT EL CASCO SUBSTATION SITE:

Summary of Activity:

The entire vegetation removal activity at the El Casco Substation site was completed during the week of February 23rd through 27 (see Figures 1 and 2). The work was performed by two contractors, Mowbray's Tree Service and Wendy's Tree Service, and by one subcontractor, BZB Logging and Land Clearing (see Figure 3). In addition, SCE personnel and cultural and biological resource consultants representing SCE were present.

The lower, level portion of the substation site (see Figure 4) and the new route of the one-half mile access road from San Timoteo Canyon Road (see Figure 5) were vegetated with non-native grass and other ruderal herbaceous vegetation. These areas were mowed by Wendy's Tree Service and its subcontractor, BZB. One or more cultural resource consultants and one or more biologists accompanied the two mowing machines at all times during the mowing operation.

The hillside portion of the substation site was vegetated with scrub oak chaparral. Vegetation removal along the hillside portion was performed mostly on foot by two crews of Mowbray Tree Service laborers working with chain saws (see Figure 6). Two bobcat bulldozers helped haul the removed vegetation to three waiting hauling trucks below the hillside. The smaller material was chipped and spread on site. The coarser woody vegetation was removed by a hauling truck to a nearby composting plant several miles west of the site on San Timoteo Canyon Road.



The mowing operation was completed on Thursday, February 26th. The shrub removal was completed on Friday, February 27th. All construction-related equipment was removed by Friday, February 27th, except for a portable toilet, which was scheduled to be removed the following Monday, March 2nd.

Environmental Training:

On Monday, February 23, 2009, most of the construction contractor employees received environmental training at the SCE Redlands Office. The training was conducted by three SCE personnel, and included biological resources and issues, cultural resources and issues, and the Project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Employees who were not present for the initial environmental training received training from SCE personnel at the substation site on Tuesday morning, February 24th, prior to vegetation removal activities.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE personnel flagged the perimeter of the site on Monday afternoon and ahead of the crews on Tuesday morning of the subject week. During the pre-construction tailgate meeting for all employees on Tuesday morning, it was explained that the access road was to be considered a boundary. No work and no vehicular travel would be allowed between the access road and nearby San Timoteo Creek.
2. A gravel bed and a shaker plate were installed at the entrance of the access road to San Timoteo Canyon Road to reduce dirt from project vehicles entering the public roadway (see Figure 7).
3. A previously discovered possible historical resource was flagged prior to mowing. The flags were temporarily removed during the mowing, and then were replaced after the mowing. Remote sensing had determined that any existing archeological material was buried deep enough to not be disturbed by the mowing. The site is marked so that it can be dealt with properly during future project land clearing activities.
4. The CPUC EM informed one of the on-site monitors that Mowbray was not using a flagger when the brush-hauling truck was making a left turn onto San Timoteo Canyon Road, as required by NTP #1. This omission was then corrected.
5. A historical cultural resource find was discovered on Friday of the subject week. The CPUC monitor was not informed of the find. Procedures will be set in the future to facilitate communication. The resource find was left in place without flagging in order to not draw public attention to it. The find will be dealt with at a later time in accordance with CRTP.

No Project Memorandums or Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP)

On February 23, CPUC issued NTP #1 for vegetation clearing activities at the future El Casco Substation site located in the Norton Younglove Reserve Area in Riverside County.

VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS:

No Variance or TEWS Requests have been submitted to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: The field in the foreground and the hillside slopes in the distance are part of the El Casco Substation site. The silt fencing was left over from earlier ground disturbance. The photo was taken immediately before commencement of vegetation clearing on Tuesday of the subject week, and faces southeastward.



Figure 2: The hillside slopes and the field were mostly cleared of vegetation by Wednesday of the subject week. The photograph was taken from the high point of the site, and faces northwestward. The access road, San Timoteo Creek, and San Timoteo Canyon Road are in the distance.



Figure 3: All contractor employees, SCE personnel, biological and cultural resource monitors, and the CPUC EM met for a final pre-construction on site meeting on Tuesday morning of the subject week. The photograph faces northwestward.



Figure 4: The lower, level portion of the substation site which was vegetated with non-native grass and other ruderal herbaceous vegetation was mowed by Wendy's Tree Service and its subcontractor, BZB. One or more cultural resource consultants and one or more biologists accompanied the two mowing machines at all times during the mowing operation. The photograph faces westward.



Figure 5: The new route of the one-half mile access road from San Timoteo Canyon Road which was vegetated with non-native grass and other ruderal herbaceous vegetation was mowed by Wendy's Tree Service and its subcontractor, BZB. One or more cultural resource consultants and one or more biologists accompanied the two mowing machines at all times during the mowing operation. The photograph faces eastward, with the existing access road and San Timoteo Creek on the left.



Figure 6: The hillside portion was vegetated with scrub oak chaparral. This operation was performed mostly on foot by two crews of Mowbray laborers working with chain saws. The smaller material was chipped and spread on site. The coarser woody vegetation was removed by a hauling truck to a nearby composting plant several miles west of the site on San Timoteo Canyon Road. The photograph faces southeastward.



Figure 7: A gravel bed and a shaker plate were installed at the entrance of the access road to San Timoteo Canyon Road to reduce dirt from project vehicles entering the public roadway. The photograph faces northwestward.