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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August, 2009  
**Subject:** Report #4: July 19, 2009 –August 1, 2009

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

The SCE El Casco 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; and
- 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.

The following compliance and construction activities occurred during the subject time period:

**EL CASCO SUBSTATION**

**Summary of Activity:**

The entire vegetation removal activity at El Casco Substation site was completed during the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27, and was reported in Report #1.

No additional construction activity has occurred at the El Casco Substation site since the vegetation removal and mowing at the substation site and adjoining temporary work space and access road during Report Period #1.

On May 8, 2009, SCE submitted the Notice to Proceed (NTP) request for the construction of the El Casco Substation and associated HDD bore work and conduit installation under San Timoteo Creek, and construction of three adjacent towers. The pre-construction compliance process is currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the El Casco Substation NTP request include: public facility coordination, regulatory permit submittals, Frac-out Plan, outstanding hydrology submittals, finalized Traffic Control Plan and associated coordination and permit acquisitions, as well as visual mitigation submittals.

The report on the methods, results, and conclusions of the Pre-NTP Survey for Biological Resources at the proposed El Casco Substation/Access Road Site was submitted to SCE by Natural Resource Consultants (NRC) on July 21, 2009. The submittal has been reviewed and field validation by the CPUC EM was conducted on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. The CPUC EM submitted documentation that there were a few discrepancies within the Table and on one of the maps. In general, the coverage of potential sensitive biological resources appears to have been quite thorough and accurate.



NRC biologists flagged smooth tarplant populations throughout the substation and access road sites. They also placed exclusion fencing around current and historical tarplant sites within the proximity of the upcoming installation of a culvert across the existing access road (see Figure 1). This work will begin after September 1, 2009.

### **115 kV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP request for the 115 kV sub-transmission work was submitted to CPUC by SCE on March 3, 2009. The pre-construction compliance process is currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the sub-transmission element include: public facility coordination, regulatory permit submittals, outstanding hydrology submittals, geotechnical investigation submittals, as well as visual mitigation submittals.

The report on the methods, results, and conclusions of the Pre-NTP Survey for Biological Resources on Segment 2 of the proposed Subtransmission Cable Route was submitted to SCE by Natural Resource Consultants on July 27, 2009. This report was received by CPUC at the end of this reporting period. Field validation of the report will be conducted by the CPUC EM during the following reporting period.

### **BANNING SUBSTATION**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP request was submitted to CPUC by SCE on April 10, 2009 for the Banning Substation work. The pre-construction compliance processes are currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the Banning Substation include: public facility coordination, geotechnical investigation submittals, as well as visual mitigation submittals.

### **ZANJA SUBSTATION**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP request was submitted to CPUC by SCE on June 19, 2009 for the Zanja Substation work. The pre-construction compliance processes are currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for Zanja Substation include: public facility coordination, biological surveys, outstanding hydrology submittals, geotechnical investigation submittals, as well as visual mitigation submittals. Potential EIR Addendum materials for work not previously analyzed in the EIR are also outstanding.

On April 23, a Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) was issued by the CPUC EM for storage of fiber optic materials within the existing Zanja Substation, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County. SCE has been notified that if they wish to continue to use the Zanja Substation for material storage beyond 60 days that a variance request needs to be approved by CPUC. The approved TEWS area has not been used to date; however, SCE has requested permanent use of the subject area during construction as part of their NTP request for the Zanja Substation.

### **MILL CREEK COMMUNICATION SITE**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP request for the Mill Creek Communication Site was submitted to CPUC by SCE on June 19, 2009. The pre-construction compliance process is currently underway. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the Mill Creek element include: public facility coordination, biological surveys, regulatory permit submittals, outstanding hydrology submittals, geotechnical investigation submittals, finalized as well as visual mitigation submittals. Potential EIR Addendum materials for work not previously analyzed in the EIR are also outstanding.

## **FIBER OPTIC CABLE INSTALLATION**

### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP request for the entirety of the fiber optic work (not including the HDD bore) was submitted to CPUC by SCE on March 5, 2009. However, on May 15, SCE requested authorization from the CPUC to commence with construction of the underground fiber optic elements in the cities of Banning and Beaumont. This separate NTP request was due to pending pavement rehabilitation work in this area by the City of Beaumont. The request was granted by CPUC on May 22, 2009. The pre-construction compliance process is currently underway for the remaining fiber optic work. Pending pre-construction compliance submittals for the fiber element (HDD work not included) include: public facility coordination, Cultural Resources Report finalization for areas along the fiber line not previously investigated.

A Biological survey report for the remainder of the fiber optic circuit had been submitted previously. During the subject reporting period, a follow-up survey report was submitted for the Zanja Shoofly FOC route to reflect the actual location of the route. Other minor changes and corrections in the report are in the process of being executed.

Construction within the cities of Banning and Beaumont began on June 16 at the western end of the 5000-foot conduit system. The construction activity consists of installation of two 5-inch conduits within a 36-inch-deep trench excavated into First Street in Beaumont and Sun Lakes Boulevard (contiguous roadways) in Banning. Seven manholes, for cable pulling purposes, also are being installed in 5-foot-deep excavations.

During the subject reporting period, all conduit placement and manhole construction were completed. During the beginning of the following reporting period, paving will be completed. The work sites were well marked for traffic control. The CPUC EM observed no traffic problems. Construction activity is occurring close to some young trees planted in the median strip, but it does not appear the disturbance to any roosting birds would be significantly greater than normal traffic. A staging area developed previously by a road signal installation crew in a vacant lot north of First Street and west of Highland Springs Road has been used by the contractor. A TEWS was submitted for the subject staging area.

### **CONSTRUCTION YARDS & OTHER WORKSPACE NEEDS**

Variance Request #1 for a laydown yard immediately south of SCE's existing Maraschino Substation in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County, was requested on April 1 and approved by CPUC on April 16, 2009. Construction of the laydown yard began on May 28 and was completed by June 12, 2009. The yard is currently being used for the storage of materials, including transmission towers.

No requests for additional construction yards or other workspace needs have been submitted to date.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

- The Sun Lakes Fiber Optic Cable underground installation has been completed except for a small section of paving within one of the westbound lanes of Sun Lake Boulevard. Proper signage, demarcation of the work limits, and traffic control occurred. Steel plates were used to protect the road surface from equipment damage, and to cover open trench.
- A staging yard previously set up by another contractor at the west end of the Sun Lakes FOC installation segment has been used by this contractor. It is within a vacant lot north of First Street and west of Highland Springs Road. Shaker plates are present at the track entrance. No evidence of chemical spills, trash build-up, and fugitive dust problems are in evidence.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) and Project Memorandum (PM), and other incidents (i.e., spills, etc.) for the SCE El Casco System Project.

**TABLE 1**  
**NCRs, PROJECT MEMORANDUM, & OTHER INCIDENTS**  
 (Updated 08-06-09)

<b>Type</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
PM #1	03/16/09	Failure to comply with Mitigation Measure B-18 before, during and after vegetation clearing at the El Casco Substation site. Construction equipment went outside of approved Project boundaries.

**NOTICE TO PROCEED (NTP) SUMMARY**

Table 2 summarizes the NTPs submitted, reviewed, and issued to date for the SCE El Casco System Project.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 08-06-09)

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	02/20/09	02/23/09	Vegetation clearing activities at the future El Casco Substation Site located in the Norton Younglove Reserve Area in Riverside County.
#2	05/15/09	05/22/09	Construction of the underground fiber optic elements of the El Casco System Project in the Cities of Banning and Beaumont.
	03/03/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement.
	03/05/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Fiber optic cable installation, remaining (see NTP #2).
	04/10/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Banning Substation
	05/08/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	El Casco Substation construction.
	06/19/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Zanja Substation
	06/19/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	Mill Creek Communication Site

1. Compliance submittals pending.

**VARIANCE & TEWS REQUEST SUMMARY**

Tables 3 and 4 summarize the Variance and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted, reviewed, and issued to date for the SCE El Casco System Project, respectively.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 08-06-09)

<b>Variance #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	04/01/09	04/16/09	Usage of an empty fenced lot immediately south of SCE's existing Maraschino Substation, Beaumont, Riverside County, as a laydown yard to support Project construction.

**TABLE 4**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS**  
 (Updated 08-06-09)

<b>TEWS #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#1	04/17/09	04/23/09	Fiber Optic material storage at the pre-existing Zanja Substation, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County
#2	07/20/09		Staging area in a vacant lot north of First Street and west of Highland Springs Road.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1:** Exclusion fencing was placed around smooth tarplant populations adjacent to planned culvert installation at one location on the El Casco Substation access Route. The culvert installation will be the next construction activity at the substation. It will begin after September 1, 2009. The photograph faces eastward towards the substation site. San Timoteo Creek is to the left. The realigned access route will be immediately to the right of the existing road.