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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 7, 2010
Subject: Report 22: January 24, 2010 – February 20, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS (EM): Lynn Stafford, Justin Wood

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site January 28th, February 3rd, and February 17th 2010.
Justin Wood was on site February 9th 2010.

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 period:

EL CASCO SUBSTATION

During the beginning of the subject period, activity was restricted by the effects of the prior week's storm events. Construction restarted on drainage V-ditches south of the Project trailers (see Figure 1), and on a culvert leading to San Timoteo Creek around the western side of the substation site. Wing walls were placed on the outlet of this culvert during the subject period. Both of these structures were near completion by the end of the subject period.

The tension cable anchor systems have been completed on the four terraces on the eastern ridge to put pressure on an underlying clay layer and thereby prevent land slippage. The anchor systems on the ten terraces on the western ridge are mostly completed. Work restarted on the western ridge terraces during the subject period after the recent storm events (see Figure 2). Excavation of the lower terraces and of the toe of the slope is now being accomplished with scrapers.

Work continued on the box culvert across the access road near the entrance gate (see Figure 3). Concrete placement occurred on both culverts. During the subject period the box portion of the culvert was completed and the concrete for the wing walls was poured.



Installation of the chain link fencing along the access road and substation pad also began during the subject period (see Figure 4).

BANNING SUBSTATION

Civil and structural steel work restarted after the previous week's storm events. Construction is occurring in a portion of the substation site previously unused by the existing substation that is being prepared to house the expansion of the substation required by the El Casco Systems Project (see Figure 5). All work occurred within the perimeter fence of the existing substation. Materials were delivered mostly from Lincoln Street through the substation, but some needed to be brought in on John Street from San Geronio Avenue on the north side of the substation (see Figure 6).

ZANJA SUBSTATION

Construction activity was limited during the first week of the subject period because of the effects of the storms of the prior week. The recently installed concrete V-ditches aided in routing run-off water (see Figure 7). Additional erosion control measures were also added during the subject period.

A temporary mobile transformer has been installed within the existing fenced substation site. New poles are being erected for connection to the temporary transformer.

The excavation for the foundation of the new MEER building was completed during the subject period (see Figure 8).

MILL CREEK COMMUNICATION SITE

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: biological surveys, regulatory permit submittals, 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.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE (FOC) INSTALLATION

During the subject period, two SCE FOC crews worked on the route. One crew continued on the Yucaipa to El Casco Segment, pulling cable on San Timoteo Road between M32T3 and El Casco Substation site. The other crew installed hardware on poles along Lincoln Street in Banning on the Banning to Maraschino Segment.

115 kV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT

The NTP request for the 115 kV sub-transmission work was submitted to CPUC by SCE on March 3, 2009. In December 2009, SCE requested to begin construction of Segment 3 while pending submittals and analysis for the other segments are being processed. Segment 3 is a one to one pole replacement within the Sun Lakes Development in Banning between Highland Springs Road and Highland Home Road. On December 9, a pre-NTP Biological Resource Survey Report was submitted by NRC to SCE for Segment 3 of the proposed Subtransmission Cable Route which was subsequently field validated by one of the CPUC EMs. Other pre-construction submittals for Segment 3 have also been approved and NTP #7 was issued by CPUC on January 5, 2010. Construction of Segment 3 is anticipated to start in March 2010.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold pending finalization of the design of Segment 1, 2 and 4, and updated description for Segments 5 – 8.

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

- Biological, cultural resource, paleontological, and other mitigation monitoring continued to be provided by NRC, LSA, and Paleo Solutions as needed. During the subject week, biological monitors were continually present during construction at both the El Casco and Zanja Substation and the FOC work areas. Paleontological monitors continued to be present at the El Casco Substation site at all times during construction. No environmental monitor was continually present at the Banning Substation site, because all work was contained within the substation and no environmental issues were involved.
- Equipment was continually checked for air pollution control compliance and drip pans were placed where necessary to contain leakages.
- Dust control, when necessary, is being maintained by water trucks at the El Casco Substation and Zanja Substation work sites.
- Concrete truck wash-out basins are established as necessary in areas where concrete placement occurs.
- Security is now on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. At some time in the future, more security may be assigned as construction materials are moved to the substation area.
- The entrance to the mobile water tower next to San Timoteo Canyon Road north of El Casco Substation that is one of the water sources for the Project is now marked with safety signs, as is San Timoteo Canyon Road for considerable distance in both directions from the entrance.
- Variance #6 to enable a Portable Fuel Tank installation at the El Casco Substation site was approved on October 27, 2009. The design and proposed placement of the tank ensure protection from diesel spill. CPUC determined that no further biological and cultural resource surveys were necessary because of prior surveys in the area. The tank will not be installed until construction fuel needs are greater than at present.
- During the subject period, fossils have continued to be located, processed, and recovered at the El Casco Substation site. The majority of these new fossils have been found during wet screening of material collected earlier in construction. One large fossil was cast and recovered from the continued excavation of the toe of the terraced slope. The fossils found so far include, but are not limited to, horse/camel, sloth, birds, rodent teeth, and plant material. To date, a wide variety of plant, mammal, bird, and invertebrate material has been recovered. The fossils have been found during excavation in the eastern over-excavation pit, within excavation at the toe of the eastern ridge and in some of the hillside terraces. The fossils are within the San Timoteo Formation and thought to be between 0.9 and 6.1 million years old. The San Timoteo Formation is known to be particularly rich in significant fossil resources from the medial Pleistocene and the later Pliocene epochs. All excavation activity, especially in the areas containing the San Timoteo Formation, has been continually monitored by paleontologists. Also material samples have been collected from the terrace excavations and from all areas where fossils have been discovered. These samples were then processed by wet screening to uncover small and difficult to detect fossil material. These activities will continue as long as construction activity

uncovers material within the fossiliferous San Timoteo Formation. When fossils were discovered, each area was immediately roped off, with construction activity temporarily diverted to other areas, while the paleontologists packaged and removed the fossils. All parties, including the monitors, SCE staff, and the contractor have worked together to facilitate the recovery of fossils, and to minimize construction delay. CPUC/Aspen personnel have been kept informed of discovery events as they have happened. It is expected that fossil discovery and removal will continue for some time at the site. To date, the monitoring of construction activities and treatment of fossil discoveries have followed the El Casco Paleontological Treatment Plan.

- It has been determined that the disturbed area at the Zanja Substation work site has exceeded one acre (see Figure 9). A WDID permit from the State Water Resources Control Board was not originally requested for this site by SCE because it originally was thought to produce a ground disturbance of less than one acre, thus voiding the need for a permit. SCE has applied and received the necessary WDID permit.
- SCE has produced a Noise Analysis/Management Plan for the El Casco Substation and Access Road sites, prepared by Chambers Group. This plan involves the construction of sound and visual barriers before the 2010 nesting season to minimize disturbance of nesting species in the San Timoteo Creek riparian area. The Plan also provides protocol for monitoring of sound levels and recommendations for adjustments to the construction schedule to minimize disturbance.
- During the week of the prior reporting period, four storms occurred throughout the project sites. At least seven inches of rain was recorded at El Casco Substation. The higher portions of the Project area, including Beaumont, Banning, Calimesa, Yucaipa, and Mentone received up to four inches of snow in addition to significant amounts of rain. Numerous erosion control problems were observed at El Casco Substation. The partially-completed box culvert was inundated with water, which then poured into San Timoteo Creek. Silt fencing was compromised in several locations. Also, the swollen San Timoteo Creek eroded its bank, threatening to destroy some of the silt fencing. The damage to erosion control features was repaired during the subject week. At Zanja Substation, erosion control measures were mostly effective (see Figure 10), with the newly constructed V-ditches aiding in routing of runoff water. Banning Substation had adequate erosion control measures in place, and the FOC work sites had no erosion problems.
- The first nesting bird observation for this season within the Project sites was obtained adjacent to the El Casco Substation access road by SCE/ NRC Biological Monitors during the first week of the subject period. An active Anna's hummingbird nest was found in riparian vegetation along San Timoteo Creek. The area around the nest has been marked for avoidance (see Figure 11). Project activity is not creating a significant impact on the nest.
- A request for temporary extra work space at the Zanja Substation site to allow distribution line crew access through an adjacent privately owned field to set equipment on existing poles was submitted on February 4, 2010 by SCE (see Figure 12). Appropriate cultural and biological resource surveys of the area had been conducted and reported, and were validated by CPUC. CPUC granted the request on February 5, 2010.

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 04-06-10)

Type	Date Issued	Description
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.
	8/21/09	A SCE internal noncompliance at the Banning Substation was issued for mobilization of the site before environmental training and biological pre-construction sweep were conducted.
PM #2	8/27/09	The initiation of construction activity before CPUC authorization and validation of the biological survey at the site of the NTP #3, MOD #1 pole work in Banning.
PM #3	01/14/10	Use of an unapproved area for staging and parking at the Zanja Substation site.

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 04-06-10)

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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.
#3	04/10/09	08/13/09	Banning Substation
#3 Mod #1	08/21/09	08/26/09	Modify work within Banning Substation and add work at 3 existing transmission poles located outside of the substation.
#4	03/05/09	8/27/09	Fiber optic cable installation, remaining (see NTP #2).
#4 Mod #1	09/30/09	10/02/09	Tree trimming.
#5	05/08/09	8/27/09	El Casco Substation construction.
#6	06/19/09	12-02-09	Zanja Substation
#7	12/17/09	1-05-10	Segment 3 of 115 kV subtrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review ¹	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement.
	06/19/09	Under Review ¹	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 04-06-10)**

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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.
#2	10/01/09	10/09/09	Placement of two water tanks and above ground pipe to feed water needs at the El Casco Substation site.
#3	09/30/09	10/15/09	FOC Temporary Circuitry: Banning and Calimesa Shoo Flies.
#4	09/30/09	10/15/09	Alternate Access to the Banning Substation from John Street.
#5	09/22/09	10/23/09	SCE has asserted within the variance request that several Geo & Hydro Mitigation Measures should not be required for the 115 kV Subtransmission Line Element.
#6	10/23/09	10/27/09	Installation of a Portable Fuel Tank at the El Casco Substation site.
#7	10/27/09	10/29/09	Project Description change from underground to overhead installation for fiber optics circuitry along Colton Avenue in the vicinity of the Mentone Substation.
#8	10/29/09	10/29/09	Removal of five Fremont cottonwood trees that are impacted by the construction of the access road to the El Casco Substation site.
#9	01/11/10	01/12/10	Sunday work on FOC shoo-fly segment during scheduled line outage.
#10	01/14/10	01/19/10	Use of the area east of the Zanja Substation fence line for parking and staging purposes.

**TABLE 4
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS
(Updated 04-06-10)**

TEWS #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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.
#3	02/04/10	02/05/10	Distribution line crew access through an adjacent privately owned field to set equipment on existing poles.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: At El Casco Substation, work continued on the drainage ditch behind the office trailers. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 2: Work restarted on the western ridge terraces at El Casco Substation site. The photograph faces southeastward.



Figure 3: Concrete work restarted on the box culvert at the access road to El Casco Substation site. The photograph faces northward towards San Timoteo Creek.



Figure 4: Chain link fencing was installed along the access road and substation pad. The photograph faces eastward towards the substation site.



Figure 5: At Banning Substation, circuit breakers and other electrical equipment were installed in the northern portion of the substation site to house the expansion of the substation required by the El Casco Systems Project. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 6: Signage was present on John street on the northern border of Banning Substation to restrict Project traffic to the commercial portion of the street.



Figure 7: The newly installed V-ditches at Zanja Substation aided in controlling run-off during recent storms. The photograph faces northward.



Figure 8: The foundation of the MEER building at the Zanja Substation being excavated. The photograph faces westward.



Figure 9: It has been determined that the disturbed area at the Zanja Substation work site has exceeded one acre and therefore requires a WDID permit from the State Water Resources Control Board. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 10: Erosion control devices prevented most siltation of a nearby watercourse during recent storms at Zanja Substation. The photograph faces westward.



Figure 11: An Anna's hummingbird nest was discovered adjacent to the El Casco Substation site access road. It has been marked for avoidance. The photograph faces northward towards San Timoteo Creek.



Figure 12: A TEWS request to allow distribution line crew access to set equipment on existing poles through an adjacent privately owned field on the northern side of Zanja Substation was requested by SCE and approved by CPUC. The photograph faces westward.