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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 21, 2010
Subject: Report 27: May 9 – May 22, 2010

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

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site May 19th, 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 subject period, the contractor for the construction of the substation, Professional Construction, Inc., completed a portion of the ground wire grid, continued preparing trenches for conduit placement, and constructed foundations for structures. Also, construction of steel structures for the 220 kV portion (see Figure 1) and building of the foundation for the 200 kV MEER (see Figure 2) began during the subject period.

Cattract, the contractor that conducted the terracing and grading for the substation pad and relocation of the access road, has completed all work, except periodic erosion control activity. Most equipment and materials have been removed from the site, with the exception of those required for future erosion control work. Also, Cattract has delayed removal of the water tower and tank near the entrance until the end of the bird nesting season. During the subject period a Cattract crew cleaned run-off V-ditches on site.

BANNING SUBSTATION

Work during the subject period included realignment of two poles that will be connected to the new MEER building, and relay wiring within the MEER. All work occurred within the perimeter fence of the existing substation.

ZANJA SUBSTATION

Construction activity at the substation has been mostly completed. Work continued on new poles (see Figure 3). Paving of the access road is expected to begin during the following week. The new electrical system will be energized in approximately three weeks. After that event, the temporary mobile transformer



will be removed. Next, the staging area will be cleared and dry season hydroseeding for erosion control will occur.

MILL CREEK COMMUNICATION SITE

On May 11, 2010, SCE provided a submittal stating that construction of the Mill Creek Microwave Tower as an element of the El Casco System Project has been suspended. The internal SCE review concluded that the originally planned fiber optic circuits connecting to the new El Casco Substation would provide adequate telecommunication infrastructure.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE (FOC) INSTALLATION

During the subject period, periodic cancellations of scheduled activity continued to slow progress. Framing occurred on Live Oak Canyon Road within the Yucaipa to El Casco Substation segment. At the end of the subject period, the crew began installing rope from the Yucaipa Substation working towards the I-10 freeway.

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. On January 5, 2010, NTP #7 was issued 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.

Work was completed on Segment 3 on during the prior period.

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. Maps of the new pole locations have been prepared by SCE and are being distributed to CPUC/Aspen personnel.

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 and other mitigation monitoring continued to be provided by NRC and Chambers Group, respectively. During the subject period, neither cultural resource nor paleontology monitoring was required. NRC and Chambers monitors were continually present during mobilization/construction at the El Casco Substation. NRC Biological Monitors were present during all construction activity at FOC and Segment 3 of the sub-transmission line sites, and at Zanja substation when required. 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. The Chambers monitor continued to check equipment for leakage.
- Dust control, when necessary, was maintained by water trucks at the El Casco Substation and Zanja Substation work sites. However, on Wednesday, May 19th the CPUC EM observed that there was a potential for fugitive dust at the Zanja Substation staging area. Fortunately there was no wind and there was little Project traffic in the staging area at the time, but a layer of dry, powdery dust was present.

- Concrete truck wash-out basins have been established as necessary in areas where concrete placement occurs. Concrete placement continued to occur at El Casco Substation site during the subject period.
- Security is now on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. Temporary security cameras were also installed near the trailers and storage yard.
- SCE has delayed the removal of the water tower and tank inside the entrance gate until after the current bird nesting season. The equipment is within 500 feet of riparian vegetation. Only normal traffic activity on the access road will be allowed during the season. The removal operation of the tower and tank would likely result in greater noise level.
- NRC Biological Monitors continued noise monitoring adjacent to the San Timoteo Creek riparian area at El Casco Substation and access road sites during the subject period. This monitoring is being done in accordance with the Noise Analysis/Management Plan for the El Casco Substation and Access Road sites, prepared by Chambers Group. The results of the monitoring continued to be provided to CPUC on a weekly basis. Peaks of construction noise occasionally reached over 60 decibels, but mostly were well under that level. The loudest noise levels recorded were in the 60s decibel range from San Timoteo Road traffic, and in the 80 to 90s range from nearby train activity. One noise monitoring station has been abandoned because of proximity to an active least Bell's vireo nest. This decision was made after consultation with the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) vireo surveyor, who is coordinating with and sharing information with NRC biologists.
- Nesting bird activities throughout the project area continued to be discovered and monitored by NRC Biological Monitors. The most recent table and maps were provided to CPUC on May 15, 2010. They continue to be provided on a bi-weekly basis. To date, approximately thirteen least Bell's vireo territories have been confirmed adjacent to the El Casco Substation and access road along San Timoteo Creek riparian belt. At the end of the prior period, a vireo territory was discovered in the eucalyptus grove adjacent to the access road opposite to San Timoteo Creek. The NRC and SAWA biologists continued to monitor the site during the subject period. The territory apparently has been abandoned. House finches continued to attempt nesting in Project structures, particularly at Zanja and El Casco Substations. Biologists continued to remove new nests before eggs could be laid. One house finch nest with eggs was abandoned by the birds at the El Casco Substation laydown yard. Since the abandonment occurred during the weekend when no construction activity was present, it is unclear if the Project caused the abandonment. However CDFG was informed of the incident.
- Temporary trenches and holes continue to be dug on the pad at the El Casco Substation site. These have the potential to trap animals. NRC Biological Monitors are inspecting the trenches each morning, using flashlights when necessary, for trapped individuals. In addition, it has been noted that permanent V-ditches that have been constructed on the periphery of the substation site may have the potential for entrapment. The issue with the V-ditches is being investigated further by SCE. The majority of the animals that have been trapped are tree frogs and western toads during cold weather, and meadow mice and rattlesnakes at other times. No special status species have been affected.
- Fiber-Optic Cable construction was alerted by NRC biologists that there is an active red-tailed hawk nest proximate to the route along Live Oak Canyon Road. They were advised to delay construction near three poles until the young have fledged and left the nest. NRC Biological Monitors monitored the site. Framing has been delayed in the area.

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 05-21-10)

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.
PM #4	03/16/10	Riparian work during nesting bird season along El Casco Substation access road.
PM #5	04/16/10	Installation of a Section of Fiber Optic Cable without CPUC Notification of Route Change or Prior Biological Survey

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 05-21-10)

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.
N/A	06/19/09	N/A	Mill Creek Communication Site – requested work suspended.

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 05-21-10)

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 05-21-10)

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, construction of steel structures for the 220 kV portion of the substation began during the subject period. The photograph faces eastward.



Figure 2: At El Casco Substation, building of the foundation for the 200 kV MEER began during the subject period. The photograph faces northeastward.



Figure 3: At Zanja Substation, most work on the upgrading of the substation has been completed. During the subject period electrical connections were made from adjacent poles to the substation in preparation for energizing of the substation in the near future. The photograph faces southwestward.