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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 14, 2010
Subject: Report 33: July 26– August 14, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS (EM): Lynn Stafford, Allison Roth

CPUC EM Allison Roth was on site July 28 and August 11, 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
- 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., continued foundation work on the 115 kV switchrack and on the 220 kV transmission towers, including AA banks (see Figures 1 and 2). Additionally, crews continued construction of the 220/115 kV MEER and installation of the foundation for the 12 kV MEER during the subject period.

Variance #13 was approved by the CPUC on August 6 to enable two nighttime deliveries of 20/115 kV transformer banks. The first delivery will take place on August 13th and the second will be on August 17th. In anticipation of the transformer delivery, work began on a supplemental trench to catch any potential spills from the transformer.

During the subject period, a job walk for potential distribution line contractors was held. The anticipated start of this work, which will include horizontal directional drilling, is Sept. 7th. The horizontal directional drill will require prior approval of the Frac-Out Contingency Plan.

Work continued on the foundations of three towers on the lower pad; crews starting placing rebar in the foundations (see Figures 3 and 4). The pad is adjacent to least Bell's vireo habitat along San Timoteo Creek, and tower construction is delayed until after the nesting season. Sound monitoring of the work continued in conjunction with the work.



Cattrac, 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, Cattrac has delayed removal of the water tower and tank near the entrance until the end of the bird nesting season.

BANNING SUBSTATION

Work continued during the subject period, with the continued electrical testing within the MEER. Additionally, SCE finished moving several transformers during the subject period, and conducted updated testing on the equipment. As the equipment is fairly old, it is likely that the Substation will acquire new equipment soon. All work occurred within the perimeter fence of the existing substation.

ZANJA SUBSTATION

Construction activity at the substation has been mostly completed. Some testing of the new equipment needs to take place, but the anticipated move to the new transformers is the week of August 5th. The replacement of an old lattice tower, outside of the substation, with a new lightweight steel pole, also needs to occur. The request for the tower replacement was received on August 13th.

The staging area has been demobilized. It will be hydro-mulched for erosion control in a few weeks. Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix will be applied to the staging area at the beginning of the next wet season.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE (FOC) INSTALLATION

Fiber Optic Cable (FOC) work continued (see Figure 5) during the subject period on the El Casco to Maraschino Route. The SCE crew pulled cable underground along the north side of Oak Valley Parkway to a vault located at the lot south of Interstate 10. Additionally, the FOC crew pumped water from 2 vaults along the north side of Oak Valley Parkway and pulled interduct eastward starting from a nearby riser. On Tuesday, August 11th, the FOC crew began deconstruction of the Calimesa Shoo-fly by removing cable, crossarms, and associated hardware from 2 segments of the shoo-fly route on both sides of Interstate 10.

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 has been completed on Segment 3.

Notice to Proceed #8 for construction of Segments 5 through 8 was issued by CPUC on July 19th. Initial work on Segment 8 is scheduled to begin in early-October.

NTPs for the remaining portions of the sub-transmission work are currently on hold pending review of the final design of Segment 1, 2 and 4. Maps of the new pole locations have been prepared by SCE and have been distributed to CPUC/Aspen personnel for review. A site visit was held July 8th and a follow up meeting was held on August 10th.

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

- Project Memorandum #6 was issued on August 11, 2010 after the El Casco Substation entrance gate was removed with a bulldozer within 500 ft. of the riparian corridor, without a Biological Monitor present and without noise monitoring as required by the approval for Variance Request #13. SCE was asked to respond to the memorandum within 5 business days.
- 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 and periodically at Zanja Substation. Two NRC Biological Monitors were present at El Substation because of the large area and the numbers of tasks involved; including, but not limited to, noise monitoring, nest monitoring, and checking of holes, trenches and V-ditches for animal entrapment. 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. The CPUC EM spoke with the SCE site representative about watering the substation pad and access road more frequently; wind has picked up in the afternoons at the site and there was only one watering truck working at the time of her visit.
- A concrete truck wash-out basin has been established and is in use at the El Casco Substation site.
- Security is on duty at the entrance gate to the El Casco Substation site twenty-four hours, seven days per week. Additionally, cones block entrance to the site, because visitors were not stopping at the guard station to identify themselves. Temporary security cameras have also been installed in the construction area, the trailers and storage yard.
- The water pump supplying El Casco Substation is broken and would require entry into the San Timoteo Creek riparian area to fix. SCE has delayed this repair until after bird nesting season and in the mean time, are utilizing a water well outside the Substation (at the edge of the development just east of El Casco Substation along San Timoteo Canyon Road) until then.
- New speed bumps have been installed along the access road to El Casco Substation.
- 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 levels.
- 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 noise 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. This includes new sound monitoring stations accompanying the tower construction on the lower pad. The results of the noise monitoring continued to be provided to CPUC on a weekly basis. The latest noise report came on Monday, August 2. The loudest noise levels recorded as a result of project activities were in the mid-70s decibel range from a concrete truck and another truck on the access road. The noise levels on the lower pad were moderate to severe, ranging from 47 to 83 decibels. The highest recorded noise level came from a water truck. While the noise exceeds the recommended decibel level (60-70 decibels) as per the *Noise Impact Analysis and Management Plan for the El Casco Substation* (Chambers 2009), the activity of the water truck is for periods of time shorter than the trains that frequently pass El Casco Substation and that produce noise levels in the upper 80s decibel range for as many as four minutes. It is assumed that the activity of the water truck (and by proxy, any construction activity that is above 60 decibels but short in duration) is still within an acceptable level.

- NRC Biological Monitors will monitor noise and light levels during the transformer bank deliveries on August 13th and 17th. If sound levels exceed the 60 decibel hourly noise standard for sensitive species during the initial transformer bank delivery, additional coordination with federal and state resource agencies prior to the second delivery may be necessary.
- Nesting bird activities throughout the project area continued to be discovered and monitored by NRC Biological Monitors. Least Bell's vireo nesting activities was monitored by the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) biologist, who shared the information with NRC. The most recent table and maps were provided to CPUC on August 1, 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; however, to date, none of the nests are currently active.
- 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. Some of the V-ditches have been covered with plywood at intervals to provide cover for trapped animals.

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 08-16-10)

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
Incident	06/21/10	SCE O&M grading on restricted access road.
PM #6	8/11/10	Construction activity without a Biological Monitor present within 500 ft. of the riparian corridor, and no noise monitoring.

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 08-16-10)**

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.
#8	02/26/09	07/19/10	Segments 5-8 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
Addendum	08/13/10	Under Review	Replace old lattice tower with lightweight steel pole outside of Zanja Substation.

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.

During the subject period, Variance Request #13 was approved by the CPUC for the nighttime deliveries of 220/115 kV transformer banks.

**TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUESTS
(Updated 08-16-10)**

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.

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#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.
#11	06/24/10	06/25/10	Sunday work on the FOC installation across Interstate 10 during minimum freeway traffic hours.
#12	07/22/10	07/23/10	Sunday work on the FOC installation across Highway 60 and Western Knolls Avenue during minimum freeway traffic hours.
#13	8/5/10	8/6/10	Nighttime deliveries of 220/115 kV transformer banks on August 13 th and August 17 th .

TABLE 4
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS
(Updated 08-13-10)

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 the El Casco Substation site, crews worked on foundations for the AA banks for the 220 kV switchcracks.



Figure 2: At the El Casco Substation site, crews worked on foundations for the AA banks for the 220 kV switchcracks. This photo is taken facing south.



Figure 3: At the El Casco Substation site, work advanced on tower pads.



Figure 4: At the El Casco Substation site, work advanced on tower pads.



Figure 5: SCE fiber optic crew installing cable.