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PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Lynne Mosley, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 3, 2010
Subject: Report 34: August 15 – August 29, 2010

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

CPUC EM Allison Roth was on site August 18 and August 27, 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 Figure 1). Paving began below the completed 200 kV switchracks in the northern part of the site (see Figure 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 (see Figure 3). Also, the second 220 kV transformer was delivered on August 17th (see Figure 4).

Work continued on the foundations of three towers on the lower pad; crews starting placing rebar in the foundations. 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 at the substation was completed during the subject period. Crews have demobilized.

ZANJA SUBSTATION

The replacement of an old lattice tower, outside of the substation, with a new lightweight steel pole was approved on August 23. Work was slated to commence on the pole the week of August 30th.

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

No Fiber Optic Cable (FOC) work occurred during the subject period. The remaining FOC work is either within 500 feet of the riparian corridor along San Timoteo Canyon Road and is on-hold until the end of nesting season or scheduled to be done in conjunction with other SCE projects.

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 Segments 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. A response to the memorandum was received on August 17. SCE has reviewed the incident with construction site representatives and reminded them that absent specific authorization, construction work within 500 ft. of the riparian corridor is prohibited during nesting bird season. Additionally, construction personnel were reminded that a Biological Monitor should be consulted prior to any future work near the corridor.
- 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.
- 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 had delayed this repair until the official end of bird nesting season (September 15), but conducted a focused nest survey to determine that there were no nests in order to begin the water pump repair work earlier. Additionally, SCE plans to spread spoils within a previously graded area along with the well repair work. The nesting survey report was submitted on August 23 and field-validated by the CPUC EM and Aspen Biologist, Justin Wood, on August 27. While male least Bell's vireo were heard calling within the creek, no nests or nesting activity were observed.
- 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. Additional riparian bird nesting surveys are planned for the week of August 30th to determine whether any birds are nesting within 500 feet of the water tower and tank; SCE plans to remove them if there are no bird's nests.
- 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 conducted in accordance with the Noise Analysis/Management Plan for the El Casco Substation and Access Road sites prepared by Chambers Group. This includes 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 was submitted on August 24. The loudest noise levels recorded as a result of project activities were in the upper-70s decibel range from construction noise from tower construction on the lower pad. The noise levels on the lower pad were moderate to severe ranging from 49 to 79 decibels. Elsewhere on the project site, noise levels ranged from 39 decibels to 56 decibels.
- NRC Biological Monitors monitored noise and light levels during the transformer bank deliveries on August 13th and 17th. Sound levels immediately adjacent to the rig exceeded 80 decibels, while 50 feet away from the rig and beyond were between 65 and 70 decibels.
- 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 09-03-10)

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 09-03-10)

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
# 6 Mod #1	08/13/10	8/23/10	Replace old lattice tower with lightweight steel pole outside of Zanja Substation.
#7	12/17/09	1-05-10	Segment 3 of 115 kV subtrans element.
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 substrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review[1]	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement, Segments 1, 2 & 4.

1. CPUC assessing additional CEQA review requirements..

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 09-03-10)

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.
#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 13th and August 17th.

TABLE 4
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS
(Updated 09-03-10)

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 the AA banks for the 220 kV switchracks.

Figure 2: At the El Casco Substation site, paving occurred below the 220 kV switchracks.

Figure 3: At the El Casco Substation site, work continued on the 115 kV MEER building. This photo is taken facing southeast.

Figure 4: At the El Casco Substation site, a second 220 kV transformer was delivered on August 17th.