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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** February 11, 2011  
**Subject:** Report 43: January 23, 2011 – February 5, 2011

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Justin Wood

CPUC EM Justin Wood was on site January 27<sup>th</sup>.

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, work on the substation pad continued. Crews continued the testing of electrical equipment and doing various tasks within the substation limits. Crews have not yet paved the access roads within the substation walls. Crews have started with the changes to the v-ditches adjacent to the main access road. Two sections of the v-ditch have been removed and the new sections should be installed in the coming week or two per the new design with more gradual slopes (see Figure 1). Three culverts have been installed under the new access road to allow wildlife to pass under the recently paved road (see Figure 2). During all road work activities vehicles are using the old access road to enter the substation. The perimeter walls of the substation pad have been completed and access is limited to three points.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) has been completed. Herman-Weissker, the HDD contractor, finished pulling conduit through each of the three bore casings, as well as trench work to vaults on San Timoteo Canyon Road. Most of the cable installation has also been completed.

**BANNING SUBSTATION**

Work has been completed at the Banning Substation.

**ZANJA SUBSTATION**

Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix was applied on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>. The hydroseed has had very little success of native seed germination and also experienced some



erosion during recent rain events. A third application is being scheduled in order to achieve acceptable coverage percentages (see Figure 3).

### **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 19<sup>th</sup>. Work on Segment 8 began on October 26<sup>th</sup>. All pole foundations on Segment 8 are complete; crews continued setting poles along Segment 8 during the subject period (see Figures 4). Foundation installation for Segment 7 is scheduled to start shortly. No schedule has been established for Segments 5 and 6.

An NTP for Segment 1 is pending submittal of pre-construction compliance documentation. NTPs for Segments 2 and 4 are currently on hold pending completion of an SEIR which is currently under preparation, but completion is subject to submittal of a Petition to Modify.

### **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, at the HDD bore site along San Timoteo Canyon Road, and at the subtrans work on Segment 8.
- 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. Additionally, track-out was minimized by continual use of a street sweeper on San Timoteo Canyon Road.
- Fiber rolls were installed on the hillsides at several subtrans pole locations in response to Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issues.
- 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.
- 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 has been resolved and replacement of the existing v-ditch and with a new design that has a more gradual sloping side to allow wildlife to enter and exit the v-ditch more easily is currently underway.

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

**TABLE 1**  
**NCRs, PROJECT MEMORANDUM, & OTHER INCIDENTS**  
 (Updated 02-11-10)

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 02-11-10)

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 subtrans element.
	03/03/09	Under Review <sup>1</sup>	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement, Segments 1, 2 & 4.
Addendum	12/06/10	12/14/10	Permanent road extensions to two pole locations along subtrans Segment 8.

1. SEIR under preparation.

## 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 02-11-10)

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	08/05/10	08/06/10	Nighttime deliveries of 220/115 kV transformer banks on August 13 <sup>th</sup> and August 17 <sup>th</sup> .
#14	09/8/10	09/13/10	Extended work hours to conduct the transfer of 50,000 gallons of oil into the two 220/115 kV transformer banks at ECSP
MOD #14	10/7/10	10/8/10	Extended work hours to conduct the transfer of oil into two additional 220/115 kV transformer banks at ECSP
#15	11/12/10	11/16/10	Extended work hours to conduct telecom splicing work and well pump testing at ECSP
#16	02/09/11	02/10/11	Allow construction on Sunday, February 13, to facilitate the completion of the v-ditch replacement.

**TABLE 4**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 02-11-10)

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:** View showing the v-ditch after removal along the El Casco Substation access road. The photograph faces east.



**Figure 2:** View of recently installed wildlife culverts under the main El Casco Substation access road. The photograph faces east.



**Figure 3:** View of temporary work area at Zanja Substation. Note the lack of emerging native seedling and also erosion from past rain events. The photograph faces east.



**Figure 4:** View of crews installing new poles just east of the El Casco Substation. The photograph faces east.