



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002  
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE EL CASCO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Lynne Mosley, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** May 7, 2013  
**Subject:** Report 56: January 5 - April 30, 2013

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

The CPUC EM was on site February 11<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> during the subject period. In addition, the CPUC EM coordinated with SCE project personnel regarding ongoing restoration and construction scheduling.

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.

**EL CASCO SUBSTATION**

Work has been completed within the El Casco Substation.

In the vicinity of the Substation, crews continued working on the restoration of the temporary work areas. Some portions of the restoration area are in great condition and are showing dense growth of natives, while other areas such as the slopes are not doing nearly as well (see Figures 1 through 3). The irrigation well has been repaired and is now up and running.

Crews previously decided to abandon the smooth tarplant mitigation site where they had been trying to gain control of the non-native species. The non-natives were unmanageable and the site was determined to be unsuitable habitat for smooth tarplant. SCE worked with resource agencies and decided to perform the smooth plant mitigation within the temporary work space adjacent to the new substation access driveway. They seeded this area and are currently weeding the mitigation site as needed and seedling should begin sprouting any day although the CPUC EM has not yet observed any yet. Sheep grazing around the substation appears to be under control at the moment; the owners of the sheep installed a fence to prevent access to the restoration area.

The restoration in the vicinity of the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) area was not doing very well and no native seedling had been observed. SCE decided to plant container plants during the subject period to offset the loss of habitat (see Figure 4). These container plants appear to be doing well although some are showing signs of stress.



## **BANNING SUBSTATION**

Work has been completed at the Banning Substation.

## **ZANJA SUBSTATION**

All work has been completed within the Zanja Substation.

Erosion control hydroseeding with a native plant mix was applied on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, and December 14, 2011. The vegetation was mowed in April of 2012 for fire fuel abatement, but the native shrubs are continuing to mature. California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) continues to be the dominant species in the temporary work areas (see Figure 5).

## **115-kV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT**

The Notice to Proceed (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 analyses for the other segments were 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, 2010. Work on Segment 8 began on October 26, 2010. All of Segment 8 had been previously completed. Finalization of construction of Segments 5, 6, and 7 was conducted during the subject period.

Notice to Proceed #9 for construction of Segment 1 was issued by the CPUC on February 22, 2012. Remaining stringing on Segment 1 was completed during the subject period.

Notice to Proceed #10 for construction of Segments 2 and 4 was issued by the CPUC on May 18, 2012. Work on Segments 2 and 4 began on June 25, 2012. Remaining stringing and pole removal work on Segments 2 and 4 was completed during the subject reporting period.

## **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 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 was used for the storage of materials during the subject period.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

- Biological mitigation monitoring is still being provided by Environmental Intelligence (EI), LLC (formerly Natural Resource Consultants). During the subject period, EI Biological Monitors were continually present during construction along the sub-transmission line work on all Segments as well as at El Casco Substation during landscaping activities.
- Equipment was continually checked for air pollution control compliance. The Chambers monitor continued to check equipment for leakage. Dust and track out are no longer problems at the El Casco Substation since construction of the substation pad is completed and the roadways have been paved.

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 MEMORANDA, AND OTHER INCIDENTS  
(Updated 05-07-13)**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
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.
	08/21/09	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	08/27/09	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	08/11/10	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 05-07-13)**

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#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	08/27/09	Fiber optic cable installation, remaining (see NTP #2).
#4 Mod #1	09/30/09	10/02/09	Tree trimming.
#5	05/08/09	08/27/09	El Casco Substation construction.
#6	06/19/09	12/02/09	Zanja Substation
# 6 Mod #1	08/13/10	08/23/10	Replace old lattice tower with lightweight steel pole outside of Zanja Substation.
#7	12/17/09	01/05/10	Segment 3 of 115 kV subtrans element.
N/A	06/19/09	N/A	Mill Creek Communication Site – requested work suspended.
#8	02/26/10	07/19/10	Segments 5-8 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
Addendum	12/06/10	12/14/10	Permanent road extensions to two pole locations along subtrans Segment 8.

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#9	02/02/12	02/22/12	Segment 1 of the 115 kV subtrans element.
# 10	03/03/09	05/18/12	115 kV Sub-transmission lines replacement, Segments 2 & 4.

### 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 05-07-13)**

<b>Variance #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#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	09/08/10	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	10/07/10	10/08/10	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	Extended work hours to continue work on the v-ditch at ECSP
#17	02/25/11	02/25/11	Sunday work on segment 7 requested. Variance approved with conditions, SCE chose to stop work and to not proceed with approval.

<b>Variance #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#18	09/23/11	10/07/11	Four additional extra workspace areas located in Segments 7 and 8.
#19	10/28/11	11/02/11	Nighttime installation of five new tubular steel poles within Segment 8.
#20	09/05/12	09/07/12	Installation of two temporary poles in Segment 2 to meet biological and regulated water permits schedule requirements.

**TABLE 4**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORK SPACE REQUESTS**  
**(Updated 05-07-13)**

<b>TEWS #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Description</b>
#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 PHOTOS



Figure 1: Southwest-facing view of the engineered slope behind the El Casco Substation. Photo taken: April 23, 2013.



Figure 2: West-facing view of the non-irrigated flats along the north side of the access driveway to the El Casco Substation. Photo taken: April 23, 2013.



Figure 3: East-facing view of the non-irrigated flats on the east side of the El Casco Substation. Note the dense growth of California buckwheat. Photo taken: April 23, 2013.



Figure 4: Northwest-facing view of the HDD restoration area. Several container plants were observed in the area and are marked by pin flags. Photo taken: February 11, 2013.



Figure 5: East-facing view of the temporary impact area just east of the Zanja Substation. Note the dense growth of native vegetation. Photo taken: April 23, 2013.