



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 16, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #28: February 6, 2004 – February 12, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on February 8 and 9 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1, #3, and #4 included the following:

1. A crew worked to remove excess spoil piles from the right-of-way in the Eucalyptus Hills area.
2. Much of the construction effort on the project during the subject week was focused at Tower Site 1210. The wet hole was excavated and the crew prepared to lower the rebar cage and start the pour; however, the approval to work past 7 p.m. was not received in time from San Diego County. SDG&E decided not to proceed without knowing if the approval would be received in time to continue work on Tuesday, February 8. Unfortunately, the excavation collapsed on Tuesday night and the hole will have to be abandoned and redrilled approximately 20 feet to the east. This will be the third attempt at this location. The approval was received from San Diego County, but not in time to start the pour. The approval will be re-issued when the next excavation is ready for concrete pouring. The crew placed fencing over the hole for protection (see Figure 1).
3. Wilson Construction worked on both dismantling and tower reconfiguration work for the temporary 230 kV installation during the subject week in the Santee Lakes area. The crews lowered the upper sections of the towers to the ground for modification and then replaced the modified section (see Figure 2). Wilson Construction completed modifications on Towers 14, 14a, 15, 16, and 18 during the week. Lattice Towers 13, 17, and 19 were dismantled into pieces and removed from the site.

Environmental Compliance:

Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms. The access roads on this segment were not impacted by erosion to the same extent as the roads on the Los Coches to Miguel Substation segment; however, many were not passable after the recent storms without damaging the road surface. The majority of access roads were passable during the subject week. Access to Fanita Junction was shifted to through the landfill after the original access through Santee Lakes became impassable following the recent storms.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project.

LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on February 8 and 9 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues. Spoil hauling activities were observed in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week. Access problems on Wind River Road caused SDG&E to divert crews to alternate locations. The following were the main construction activities or issues during the subject week:

1. The CPUC EM met with the local property owners, a representative of a San Diego County Supervisor, and the SDG&E Project Manager and the transmission engineer to review site conditions at Tower Sites 481 and 493 on January 26. Property owners blocked access to this section of right-of-way on January 27 and SDG&E is pursuing a court order to gain access to the pole location. The incident was covered by the local print and television news services. No work was scheduled at the location during the subject week. Although the sidewalk has been damaged by heavy trucks and equipment, SDG&E will repair this once all construction in the area has been completed. It was noted that a local car, not owned by the property owner, was parked in front of the access route to Pole 481 the previous week and SDG&E has placed No Parking signs for the work scheduled for February 15. SDG&E has removed the steel plates on the access to Tower 481 due to concerns over children playing in the area.
2. Anderson Drilling worked at Pole Site 132 and Pole Sites 151 and 161 were complete and ready for pouring of the foundation.

Environmental Compliance:

SDG&E informed the CPUC EM that a crew working on stringing cable drove a mobile crane into the ambrosia habitat off Steele Canyon Road. The activity impacted some of the protected plants and a Project Memorandum will be issued by the CPUC EM. Essex brought the botanist that originally surveyed the area to assess the impact to the ambrosia in order to report the damage to the resource agencies. Although the impact of the observed incident was minimal, deep ruts from an unknown utility truck caused more damage to the habitat (see Figure 3). Essex EIs were on-site repairing the exclusion fencing and replacing the wooden stakes with metal posts.

The CPUC EM reviewed the current condition of several sites on the segment for improvements after the BMP meeting on February 3. Silt fencing and rock has been added to Pole Site 321 (see Figure 4). The BMPs should be effective during the predicted storm event. A road runner was observed during the site visit (see Figure 5).

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On February 3, 2005, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) submitted Variance Request #8 requesting the ability to perform construction activities after 7:00 p.m., February 8 at 230 kV Pole Site 1210. The previous attempt was unsuccessful due to a sidewall collapse during the concrete pour and work progressed past the 7:00 p.m. stop time due to the delivery of an improper concrete mix. SDG&E does not anticipate work past 7:00 p.m. unless problems occur with the pour. CPUC approved this Variance on February 4. With the delay in the County approval as noted above, SDG&E will need the variance from the construction hours; however, the day of the late work has moved due to the failure of the second excavation.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 02/16/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15.	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	10/06/04
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Completed	10/26/04
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 02/16/05)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date ¹
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #2
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #2

¹For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews placed protective fencing over the completed foundation at Pole Site 1210 (the excavation failed overnight).



Figure 2 – The Wilson Construction crew worked to prepare the base for the modified upper section.



Figure 3 – The recent impacts to the ambrosia habitat were minor compared to the deep ruts left by an unknown utility truck.



Figure 4 – SDG&E has made improvements to the BMPs at Pole Site 321.



Figure 5 – A road runner was observed on the project right-of-way near Pole Site 632.