Aspen
Environmental Group

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: March 30, 2005

Subject: Weekly Reports #34: March 20, 2004 – March 26, 2005

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

FANITA JUNCTION TO MIGUEL 138/69 KV ACTIVITIES, NTP #1 AND #2

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 23 and 24 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Transmission line work was observed during the site visit. Much of the 138 kV work on the segment has been completed. Work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2 included the following:

1. The SDG&E transmission line crew at Fanita Junction continued moving cable from the lattice tower to the steel pole (see Figure 1). All equipment and work activities were within the area previously disturbed by the 138 kV and 230 kV construction crews. The access road to the site was dry, but with several large ponded sections, during the site visit.

2. A Magto drilling machine was delivered to the Miguel Substation area during the site visit and will be moved onto the right-of-way once the road has dried from the recent rains. Much of the 138 kV work remaining is between Millar Ranch Road and the Miguel Substation and has been impacted by wet road conditions and difficult access. PAR has purchased several off-road concrete trucks that can be pulled by heavy equipment in cases where normal trucks cannot safely travel the roads.

3. A PAR crew worked to set the rebar cage and anchor bolts at Pole Site 172 during the site visit (see Figure 2). The crew will prepare Pole Sites 172 and 181 for concrete so that 172, 181 and 191 can be poured at the same time. The extensive road work and rock placed on the access road to the sites has made travel possible for light vehicles after rains; however larger vehicles could still damage the road and prevent access.

4. The drilling operation and foundation pouring was completed for the wet hole at Pole Site 1210 on March 22. The entire operation was designed to be completed in one day to prevent loss of the hole due to the high water table. The drilling machine completed the hole using a polymer to hold the sidewalls during drilling and during preparation for the concrete pour. The water with the polymer was collected by water trucks and is treated with bleach to deactivate the binding properties of the polymer and revert the mix back to water. The concrete pouring operation continued after 7:00 p.m. under Variance Request #8. The first two attempts at the site were not successful, one due to a failed test on the foundation and the second due to a collapsed hole prior to pouring any concrete. Crews worked at the site to drill holes for the pressure grouting during the site visit (see Figure 3). The wet spoils at the site were covered with plastic to prevent sediment travel in the event of predicted rains.

5. The micro-pile at Pole Site 493 was completed during the subject week (see Figure 4). The micro-pile foundations at site 493 and 522 will be ready for poles following testing of the foundations.

Environmental Compliance:

1. 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. However, as noted within, access to some locations is still difficult.

2. The road to Fanita Junction needed repair before work could continue. The access road was covered with mud and grading would just force the mud off the approved access road. The CPUC EM previously reminded SDG&E that the mud from the access road could not be pushed outside the footprint of the existing access road. However, as previously reported, some mud has been pushed from the road during recent grading activities and will have to be addressed prior to any rains. This mud is still on site, but has been covered with plastic to prevent sediment transport (see Figure 5).

3. An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project. Biologists worked to survey gnatcatcher areas prior to construction. Some surveys have been delayed due to weather conditions. The construction crews were reminded by Essex that surveys need to be conducted prior to work in many areas. Although some brushing activities may to be completed after the March 1 deadline under Variance Request #10, the cut vegetation should be moved away from the contiguous habitat immediately and under the supervision of an EI.

MISSION TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION 230 KV ACTIVITIES, NTPS #3 AND #4

Summary of Activity:

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on March 23 and 24 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues related to installation of the permanent and temporary 230 kV systems.

PERMANENT 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #3 was issued to address 230 kV work on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar prior to the NTP for all 230 kV work to address the expiration of a permit with the Navy. NTP #4 addressed the permanent upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations. The following were the main construction activities or issues that occurred during the subject week:

1. A crew from Tri-State Drilling worked on the foundation above El Monte Road at Pole Site Z201914 during the site visit (see Figure 6).

2. A Wilson crew working to clean up at Pole Site Z201915 took an excavator off the access road and impacted ruderal vegetation on the slope (see Figure 7). The steep access road does not provide easy maneuvering or passing.

TEMPORARY 230 kV INSTALLATION

NTP #4 also addressed the installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations. Other than clearing of vegetation prior to March 1, the temporary 230 kV work between Miguel to Los Coches Substations is awaiting the completion of work on the 138 kV system by PAR. Once PAR has finished work on the segment, the Wilson Construction crews will start the upgrades to the existing towers. The installation of the temporary wood poles started during the week of March 7. The crews have placed additional wood poles above the Los Coches Substation since the last site visit. No work on the temporary 230 kV installation was observed during the site visit

Environmental Compliance:

1. The impacts from the off right-of-way travel with the excavator on the access road to Pole Site Z201915 were minimal and the vegetation lost was ruderal. The nature of the slope may require some minor restoration and stabilization efforts, but reseeding should not be necessary.

2. 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.

3. An Essex EI has been working closely with the Wilson crews to perform any necessary training and arrange for any required biological surveys.

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:

SDG&E submitted Variance Request #10 on March 10, 2005 to allow for clearing of vegetation in sensitive habitat after March 1. This variance request was approved by CPUC on March 22. SDG&E submitted Variance Request #13 on March 28 to allow work on Cesar Chavez day; however, the variance was not required since the day is not recognized as a State or Federal holiday. SDG&E submitted Variance Request #14 on March 29 to allow transmission line work on Sunday April 3 and Sunday, April 10 across Interstate 8. Variance Request #14 was approved by CPUC on March 30.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 03/30/05)

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
9	02/16/05	Perform construction activities on Sunday, February 20 at Pole Site 493.	Completed	02/17/05
10	03/10/05	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat after March 1 on the project during the 2004/2005 nesting season.	Completed	3/22/05
11	03/14/05	Work after 7pm at Pole 411 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	03/16/05
12	03/14/05	Work on Sunday, March 20 to string cable at eight towers to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule. Modification added for line work north of Los Coches Substation.	Completed	03/17/05
13	03/28/05	Work on Cesar Chavez holiday, Thursday March 31.	Not Required	N/A
14	03/29/05	Work on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10^{h} to string cable to comply with Caltrans/Highway Patrol lane closure requirements.	Completed	3/30/05

UPCOMING ITEMS: None

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

TABLE 2
TEWS TRACKING
(Updated 03/30/05)

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
7	Los Coches to Miguel	02/11/05	Southwest of Pence Road, San Diego County	Approved from 02/16 to 04/16	02/16/05
8	Los Coches to Miguel	03/11/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/16 to 05/16	03/16/05
9	Mission to Fanita	03/18/05	Helicopter fly pad for 138 kV installation, Padre Water District	Approved from 03/21 to 05/21	03/21/05
10	Los Coches to Miguel	03/29/05	PAR staging and show-up yard on Jamacha Road.	Approved from 03/29 to 05/29	03/29/05

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

Photographs

Figure 1 – An SDG&E transmission line crew worked at Fanita Junction moving lines.

Figure 2 – PAR worked at Pole Site 172 to set the rebar cage and anchor bolts in preparation for pouring concrete.

Figure 3 – The drilling and foundation pouring at Pole Site 1210 was completed on March 22 and crew prepared to pressure grout around the casing.

Figure 4 – The micro-pile crew worked has been completed on the steep side-slope at Pole Site 493.

Figure 5 – The wet material pushed off the right-of-way at Fanita Junction has been covered and will be removed shortly.

Figure 6 – Tri-State Drilling worked at Pole Site Z201915 to excavate the 230 kV foundation.

Figure 7 – An excavator traveled off the approved access road to Pole Site Z201914 and the area needs to be stabilized prior to any rains.