Aspen Environmental Group

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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM**
**SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
**Date:** May 1, 2008
**Subject:** Construction Status Report # 5: April 6, 2008–April 26, 2008

**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site April 21st, 2008. During the visit, he met with Ed Lucas, SCE Inspector.

The SCE Riverway Project includes construction of a new 66/12-kilovolt (kV) low-profile substation on an approximate two-acre walnut orchard site in the City of Visalia, California. The project also includes installation of approximately 1,200 feet of underground 66 kV subtransmission lines starting at the intersection of Riggin Avenue and the extended North Mooney Boulevard and ending at the substation; and installation of new fiber optic cable and communication equipment to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunication system.

Currently, under Notice to Proceed #4, construction during this phase includes civil work, electrical and sub-transmission construction, site Landscaping, fence/gate, and Lighting. The civil work includes installation of temporary fencing, placement of crushed rock and shaker plates, installation of the ground grid, installation of concrete footings, placement of concrete pads, and the installation of conduit. Substation electrical and sub-transmission construction activities have begun.

## PREPARATION OF LAYDOWN YARD AND SITE GRADING:

### Summary of Activity:

Prior to the April 21st CPUC EM site visit, the laydown yard had been prepared and stacked with materials for the civil phase of the Project. The site grading also had been completed.

## CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

### Summary of Activity:

MCS Construction, Inc. began civil construction activities on March 7th, 2008. By April 21st, perimeter wall construction was mostly completed (see Figure 1). Work on the power grid, concrete footings, placement of concrete pads, and installation of conduit continued (see Figures 2 and 3). The Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER), which will be the only building on site, was in place. MCS is scheduled to complete the civil work within two or three more weeks.

## ELECTRICAL AND SUB-TRANSMISSION CONSTRUCTION

### Summary of Activity:

The electrical work just began on April 21st.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

No Project Memorandums or Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) has been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

There were several trenches two feet and greater deep. These trenches continued to be provided with wood ramps at the close of each work day in order to prevent trapping of wildlife (see Figure 4).

The CPUC monitored surveyed the walnut grove and other surrounding areas bordering the project site on April 21st, 2008. The bird species observed so far this breeding season that have the potential to nest in the immediate vicinity of the Project site include red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, mourning dove, Nuttall's woodpecker, American crow, American robin, western bluebird, house finch, lesser goldfinch, and house sparrow. Many sites for cavity and platform nesting bird species exist in the walnut grove immediately adjacent to the Project site. It is highly unlikely that Project activity will negatively affect any nearby nesting activity, since project activity is strictly confined to the Project site. There has been no attempt so far by any bird species to nest on site. The greatest amount of construction-produced sound occurred during the grading portion of the Project, which was completed before the onset of nesting activities by most bird species. Sound measurements taken by the CPUC EM on April 21st, 2008 were between 48 and 54 decibels at the edge of the walnut grove bordering the northern edge of the Project site during construction. Ambient sound (during construction lunch break) was between 37 and 44 decibels. These readings were well below the 60 decibel level which is frequently used as the upper limit for construction-related noise adjacent to sensitive species habitat.

A concrete clear-out station continued to be situated at the laydown yard.

The fueling station in the laydown yard was properly lined for spill containment.

There was no evidence of fuel, oil, lubricant, or other hazardous construction-related substance on the substrate at the Project site.

There was no evidence of food-related waste on the Project site.

Dust was under control at the Project site. All vehicles were required to exit the project site onto Riggin Avenue via a shaker plate to reduce movement of dirt onto the public road.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 1 summarizes the NTPs issued to date for the SCE Riverway Substation Project.

**TABLE 1**
**SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT NTPS**
(Updated 05-01-08)

| NTP # | Date Requested | Date Issued | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1 | October 10, 2007 | October 16, 2007 | Preliminary construction activities, including tree removal, preparation of a laydown yard adjacent to the substation site, and installation of temporary fencing. |
| #2 | January 23, 2008 | January 25, 2008 | Installation of new fiber optic cable and communication equipment to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunication system. |
| #3 | January 24, 2008 | January 28, 2008 | Grading and civil work, including substation site grading, installation of temporary fencing, placement of crushed rock and shaker plates, installation of the ground grid, installation of concrete footings, placement of concrete pads, and the installation of conduit. |
| #4 | March 6, 2008 | March 27, 2008 | Substation electrical and sub-transmission construction activities. In addition, the site Landscaping Plan, fence/gate plans, and Lighting Plan were submitted which fulfill the remaining preconstruction requirements for the project. |

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

# PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS

**Figure 1:** The perimeter wall was mostly completed. The design of the wall, including pillars and capstones, is intentionally similar to nearby housing tracts. The photograph faces westward along the route of the future permanent entrance road.


**Figure 2:** Civil work continued, including installation of concrete pads, concrete footings, and conduit. The photograph faces northwestward.

**Figure 3:** Conduit construction included trenching, placement of conduit, and grouting over the placed conduit.

**Figure 4:** Wildlife ramps continued to be placed in all trenches two or more feet deep.