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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM  
SCE RIVERWAY SUBSTATION PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** June 4, 2008  
**Subject:** Construction Status Report # 7: May 11, 2008–May 24, 2008

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

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 Riggan 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 includes civil work, electrical and sub-transmission construction, site Landscaping, fence/gate, and Lighting. The civil work, which 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 has been almost completed. Substation electrical construction, which includes installation of the transformers, capacitor banks, MEER setup, and landscaping, continued.

**PREPARATION OF LAYDOWN YARD AND SITE GRADING:**

**Summary of Activity:**

Prior to the May 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. By May 23<sup>rd</sup>, perimeter wall construction, work on the power grid, concrete footings, placement of concrete pads, and installation of conduit was completed. Only finish work on the water runoff retention basin (see Figure 1) and incoming drains (Figures 2 and 3) remained to be completed. 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 by Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ELECTRICAL AND SUB-TRANSMISSION CONSTRUCTION**

**Summary of Activity:**

The electrical contractors continued installing the transformers, capacitor banks, and circuit breakers (see Figures 4 and 5).



## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

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

All trenches two feet and more deep have been filled in, and no longer need to be provided with wildlife ramps. All conduit pipes with diameters equal or greater than four inches were carefully inspected before installation in order to avoid trapping of wildlife.

The CPUC monitor surveyed the walnut grove and other surrounding areas bordering the project site on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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, red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, Nuttall's woodpecker, American crow, American robin, western bluebird, Brewer's blackbird, house finch, lesser goldfinch, and house sparrow. Many sites for cavity and tree platform nesting bird species exist in the walnut grove immediately adjacent to the Project site. There is little nesting habitat for bush and ground nesting species. No occupied nests have been observed, but behavior suggests that several species are nesting within the grove adjacent to the Project site. The CPUC EM has divided the grove within five hundred feet of the site into five sections for reference in recording observations of potential nesting species. These sections are west, northwest, north, northeast, and east of the 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 SCE Inspector noticed possible nesting material (small diameter twigs) in one of the transformers when it was delivered to the site. It was subsequently determined by the Inspector and the CPUC EM that the plant material was on the transformer when it arrived, and was more likely to have been windblown, rather than the result of off-site bird nesting building effort. 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 levels on May 23<sup>rd</sup> were well below the 60 decibel level which is frequently used as the upper limit for construction-related noise adjacent to sensitive species habitat.

The concrete clear-out station has been removed from the laydown yard. All concrete placements on site have been completed.

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. The SCE Inspector reported that a few spills have occurred on the site, and were cleaned up, with contaminated substrate properly removed from the 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 06-04-08)

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.

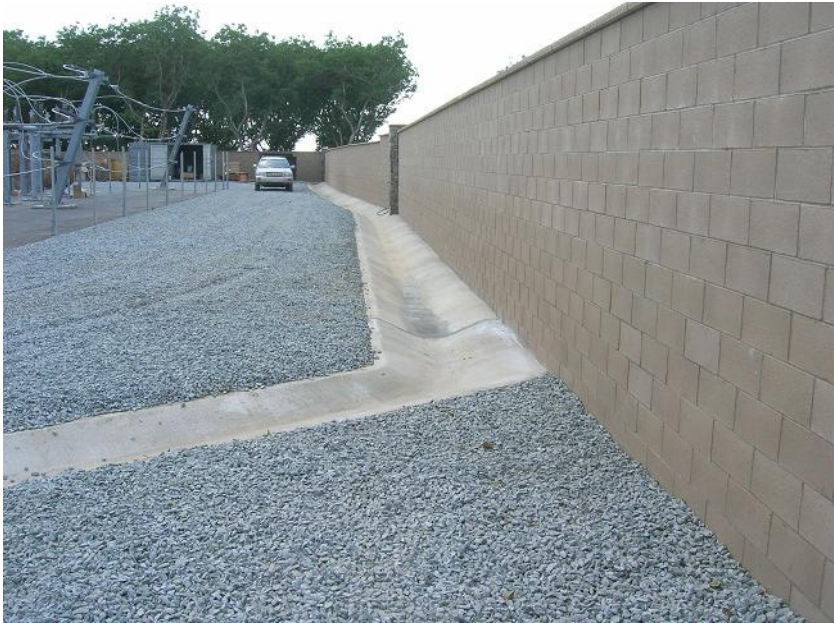
**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

**PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1:** The water runoff retention basin was almost completed. The water force dissipation structure was in place.



**Figure 2:** The incoming drain inside the north perimeter wall for the retention basin was completed. The photograph faces westward.



**Figure 3:** The incoming drain on the outside of the east perimeter wall for the retention basin was still under construction. The photograph faces southward.



**Figure 4:** Installation of the transformers, capacitor banks, and circuit breakers continued. The photograph faces westward.



**Figure 5:** Installation of the transformers, capacitor banks, and circuit breakers continued. The photograph faces westward.