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PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E SEVENTH STANDARD SUBSTATION PROJECT

To: Monisha Gangopadhyay, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 27, 2010
Subject: Report #4: April 4, 2010 – April 24, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site April 22nd. During the visit, he met with Matthew Mills, PG&E Inspector, and with Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor.

The PG&E Seventh Standard Project includes: construction of a new 115/21-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation, constructed on an approximate five-acre almond orchard site at 33815 Seventh Standard Road in Bakersfield, California. The project also includes installation of three tubular steel poles, including two dead-ends, two drop-down structures, up to nine distribution circuits (at full buildout), and a paved 550-foot-long access road from Seventh Standard Road to the substation.

Currently, under Notice to Proceed #1, construction is limited to site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY:

Prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed #1, the almond trees within the five acre site had been removed by PG&E during fall 2009, in preparation for substation construction. Also, Crimson Oil Company, which owns a nearby capped oil well, placed an oil pipe encased in corrugated steel culvert pipe in a trench across the location of the to-be-constructed access road to the substation.

During the subject period, preparation and grading of the site continued. Roots from the earlier tree removal have been removed except from the northern end of the access road. The substation site grading has been mostly completed to sub-grade level. An additional few inches of material will be imported from off site to reach final grade. Preparation for structure foundations was in progress towards the end of the subject period. Grading work has been slowed by rain events during the subject period.

The access road has been excavated (see Figure 1), except for the entrance to Seventh Standard Road (see Figure 2). The permit for the work on the entrance has been obtained from the City of Bakersfield. That construction will be completed as soon as the soil has dried sufficiently. The access road will be filled to grade with imported material and paved (sixteen foot width).

The contractor used a water truck for compaction. So far, dust control has not been necessary because of recent winter rain events and continued cold temperature.

All personnel receive environmental training by a representative of Transcon Environmental, Inc., a PG&E consultant, prior to commencing work on the Project. This training includes all subjects included in the mitigation measures and the SWPPP for the project. The training materials, as well as pertinent permits, and other Project documents, were available on a daily basis onsite. The sign-sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC.



The contractor presently is working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.

Besides the PG&E Inspector, a Biological Monitor has been present during all work activity. A soils inspector has been present during soil compacting activity. The Biological Monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, and trained new employees as they arrived.

Tracks of kit fox were found within the substation site during the subject week, and a local coyote continued to occasionally patrol the adjacent almond orchard. Several bird species have been observed in the area, including mourning dove, western scrub-jay, killdeer, American crow, red-tailed hawk, lesser goldfinch, and rose-ringed parakeet. No birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the project during the subject period. Killdeer has the potential to attempt nesting on the disturbed ground of the site. The Biological Monitor has determined there is only a single individual present, probably an unmated male.

A shaker plate with rock apron was in place at the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road.

No leakage of fluids from equipment was observed. Equipment was being monitored continually.

The CPUC EM observed that the work site was clean with no trash, including food-related materials, present. A hand board was present at the site with safety instructions and equipment in place.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The CPUC NTP #1 included seven specific conditions to be met during or prior to construction. Evidence was either obtained prior to the CPUC EM site visit or observed on site that all conditions were being met. All permits, compliance plans, NTP #1, copies of environmental training materials, and training sign-up sheets were on site. The pre-construction biological survey was executed on February 12, 2010, and subsequently reported. Because PG&E decided to provide a fulltime Biological Monitor, the five NTP #1 questions concerning implementation and documentation of biological resource protection measures are being addressed on a daily basis.

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

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On March 2, 2010, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within Seventh Standard Substation property.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: The access road has been excavated. Fill and paving will be conducted after the soil dries out from recent rain events. The shaker plate (see foreground) helps to prevent transportation of dirt onto Seventh Standard Road. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 2: The permit for the construction of the entrance to the access road has been obtained from the City of Bakersfield. The construction will be completed as soon as soil conditions have dried sufficiently. The photograph faces eastward.