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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: July 30, 2010
Subject: Report #9: June 27, 2010 – July 24, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site July 23rd. During the visit, he met with Holly Hill, the Transcon Biological Monitor, and John Tart, the PG&E Electrical Inspector.

The PG&E Seventh Standard Project includes: construction of a new 115/21-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation, constructed on an approximately 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 build-out), and a paved 550-foot-long access road from Seventh Standard Road to the substation.

During the subject period, work continued on the activities permitted by Notices to Proceed (NTP) #1 and #2. NTP #1 permits activities includes site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property. NTP #2 permits activities include the remaining aspects of construction including general electrical work, installation of steel structures, low and high voltage equipment, installation of the electrical controls enclosure and telecommunications equipment, equipment testing, paving of roads, and final grading of the property. The civil contractor is D & C, and the electrical contractor is TTR.

SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION 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, erection of structures continued (see Figure 1). Construction of below-ground conduit trenches and the ground grid system also continued (see Figure 2).

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing was mostly completed during the subject period (see Figure 3). The eight-foot high chain link fencing is being installed on both sides of the access road and along the south, north and east boundaries of the substation. A concrete paneled wall was placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. An access gate will be placed in the middle of the wall (see Figure 4).

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. This portion will contain the retention basin (see Figure 5). During construction, part of the western portion is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage. This section may be used for future substation expansion.

Final grading has not occurred on the access road, and will not be completed until the City of Bakersfield road work is completed on Seventh Standard Road at the entrance to the access road (see Figure 6)

The contractors currently are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.



Security is on site after work hours and 24 hours/day on non-work days.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

In addition to the PG&E construction inspector(s), a Transcon Environmental Inc. Biological Monitor has been present during all work activity. The Biological Monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, inspected newly arriving equipment for cleanliness, checked stored pipe for closures, checked trenches and holes, checked for food-related trash, and trained new employees as they arrived. She, with the inspectors, also ensured compliance with all other environmental mitigation measures such as fugitive dust control and fluid spill prevention and containment. The Biological Monitor uses a 32-point check list each work day based on this project's mitigation measures to ensure coverage of all environmental issues.

All personnel working on site, including the security guard staff, have received environmental training by the Biological Monitor prior to commencing work on the Project site. 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-in sheets have been viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-in sheets will be sent to the CPUC.

During the subject period, open trenches were less than two feet deep and were sloped enough to allow escape by animals.

No evidence of kit fox was found within the substation site during the subject period. The only mammals detected on site were domestic dog and cat. No other mammal, reptile, or amphibian activity was noted. Several bird species have been observed in the area. One active Killdeer nest on site was roped off for exclusion from all Project activity. Three young successfully fledged from the nest during the subject period. The young were moved by the parent bird off the Project site to the east. Black phoebes frequented the site during the subject period, and appeared to be searching for a nest site. Black phoebes will utilize human structures, nesting under eaves, inside buildings, etc. Storage containers on site were kept closed, and netting was placed around the opening under trailers (see Figure 7). The measures put in place to discourage nesting by phoebes and other species has been successful to date. Western kingbirds have frequented the structures under construction. If nesting attempts occur, the nests will be removed before eggs are laid.

The contractor continued to use a water truck for dust control. Watering occurred on dirt surfaces on the entire site three times per day. Fugitive dust did not appear to be an issue during the subject period.

A shaker plate with rock apron continued to be 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. Newly arriving equipment was checked for cleanliness.

No concrete clean-out basin is on site, because the concrete delivery trucks being used are equipped with internal recycling systems that clean the concrete delivery chamber and stores the wash-out within the truck for reuse.

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.

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.

On May 10, 2010, NTP #2 was issued by the CPUC for the remaining aspects of construction.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: During the subject period, erection of structures continued. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 2: Below-ground conduit trenches were being excavated leading to the electrical controls enclosure in the middle distance. The photograph faces southward.



Figure 3: Work on the perimeter chain link fencing has been mostly completed. The eight-foot high chain link fencing is being installed on both sides of the access road and along the south, north and east boundaries of the substation. The photograph shows the north side fence, and faces northeastward.



Figure 4: A concrete paneled wall was placed along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site in anticipation of future home development in that area. An access gate will be placed in the middle of the wall. The photograph faces southwestward.



Figure 5: The contouring for the retention basin has been started in the western portion of the site. Some of the remainder of the western portion of the site is being utilized for vehicle and equipment parking, and for materials storage. This section may be used for future substation expansion. The photograph faces southeastward.



Figure 6: Final grading of the access road (in the foreground) is awaiting the completion of the rebuilding work on Seventh Standard Road at the entrance to the access road. The former two-lane roadway has been removed, and will be replaced with two new eastbound lanes. The new westbound lanes have been completed (beyond the K-rails), and are currently carrying both directions of traffic. The photograph faces northward.



Figure 7: Black netting has been placed around the opening under trailers to discourage nesting by birds such as the black phoebe. The photograph was taken near the northern perimeter fence, and faces eastward towards the access road in the distance.