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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: October 12, 2010
Subject: Report #14: September 19, 2010 – October 9, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM Lynn Stafford was on site October 4th. During the visit, he met with John Tart, the PG&E Electrical Inspector, and with Holly Hill, the Biological Monitor.

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) #2. Prior to the subject period, most work on NTP #1 permitted activities had been completed, which included much of the 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 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 electrical structure installation contractor, TTR, has completed most installation and was on site during the subject period only for dust control watering as needed. Electrical installation testing crews from PG&E and another consultant continued to be present during the subject period. PG&E line installation crews worked on final pole and conductor installation during the subject period.

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.

PG&E and their consultant worked on electrical installation and testing worked on site throughout the subject period.

Final connections with outside lines, including the installation of the final two tubular steel poles (see Figures 1 and 2), were completed by PG&E crews during the subject period. TTR will return once the City of Bakersfield Seventh Standard Road work is completed to bring the site to grade, and apply gravel and pavement.

Work on the perimeter chain link fencing and the access gate in the concrete wall was completed during the subject period (see Figures 1 and 3). The eight-foot high chain link fencing has been 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 was placed in the middle of the wall.

The western portion of the site will not be used for the current substation. This portion will contain the retention basin. During construction, part of the western portion has been utilized for vehicle and equip-



ment parking, and for materials storage. Much of the remaining stored material will be removed shortly (see Figure 4). During the subject period, the PG&E line crews working on the installation of the final two tubular steel poles and on the stringing of conductor into the substation used this area for staging (see Figure 5). 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.

The substation is scheduled to be energized in mid-November.

The electrical testing crews currently are working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday.

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

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The PG&E electrical inspector continued monitoring the site during the subject period. A Transcon Environmental Inc. Biological Monitor was present during all work activity during the subject period. The Biological Monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day if needed, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, inspected newly arriving equipment for cleanliness, checked stored pipe for closures, checked trenches and holes when present, checked for food-related trash, and was prepared to train new employees as they arrived. She 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. No personnel were trained during the subject period.

During the subject period, no open trenches were present. The ends of pipe with diameters four inches or greater, and lengths of four feet or greater were kept capped.

No evidence of kit fox was found within the substation site during the subject period. The main attraction to the site by animals at the present time is cover under or within structures. Efforts were made to reduce access to these enclosed areas.

Several bird species have been observed in the area. During the subject period, only black phoebes continued to frequent the site. The phoebe and a few other bird species in the area will utilize human structures for nesting. Storage containers on site were kept closed and netting has been placed around the opening under the testing trailer. The measures put in place to discourage nesting by bird species has been successful to date. If nesting attempts occur, the partially constructed nests will be removed with prior California Department of Fish & Game concurrence. The primary season for nesting for most species is over for 2010.

The civil contractor (TTR) provided watering for dust control as needed during the subject period. Shortly, the western portion of the site will be cleared of stored material (see Figure 4). It then will be temporarily fenced off to exclude vehicular traffic until final grading occurs. This exclusion of traffic will preserve the dirt surface crust, thus reducing the need for dust control.

No equipment was being used on site at the end of the subject period. No leakage of fluids from equipment was observed.

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: Final connections with outside lines, including the installation of the final two tubular steel poles (in the distance), were completed by PG&E crews during the subject period. Also, the fencing was constructed across the entrance to the substation. The photograph was taken in the eastern portion of the substation site, and faces northward toward the access road.



Figure 2: The final two tubular steel towers were installed and conductor was strung. They are adjacent to highway construction on Seventh Standard Road.



Figure 3: The access gate in the concrete wall along the perimeter of the west edge of the substation site was installed during the subject period. The photograph faces westward.



Figure 4: Materials being stored in the western portion of the site will be removed shortly. This area will be temporarily fenced off to vehicular travel to reduce dust problems. The photograph faces northwestward.



Figure 5: During the subject period, the PG&E line crews working on the installation of the final two tubular steel poles and on the stringing of conductor into the substation used the western portion of the substation site for staging. The photograph faces southeastward.