



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 8, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #5: August 29, 2004 – September 4, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 for work on the substation site was issued by the CPUC on Thursday, July 15.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on September 1 and reviewed the construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 230 kV transmission line NTP request with SCE.

Crews continued working on excavating and building forms for the foundation of buildings on the substation site, while another crew built forms in completed excavations (see Figure 1). A drilling machine was on-site working through the very hard material in locations where substation structures require footings. Numerous bore holes throughout the substation site have been completed and are covered by plywood and marked with orange warning flagging.

The grounding grid on the substation site has been covered in rock and materials have been delivered to the site. Excess spoils from the boring and foundation excavations were loaded into trucks for removal from the substation site (see Figure 2).

The two staging and storage areas at the gravel quarry have been fenced and screening material installed. Anchor bolts have been delivered to the upper site (see Figure 3).

Environmental Compliance:

For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

Tracey Alsobrook, SCE, was on-site directing the placement of exclusion fencing on the 230 kV transmission line right-of-way above the substation in preparation for the next NTP. The exclusion fencing was placed around the tower sites and access roads to minimize impacts to sensitive species habitat (see Figure 4).

Additional coastal California gnatcatchers have been sighted between the substation site and the transmission right-of-way near the southern gate. No construction activity is taking place in this area.

The site vegetation has been removed from the substation site and a LSA Environmental Inspector will not be on-site full-time. A LSA biologist was on-site to assist Tracey Alsobrook with flagging sensitive resources on the 230 kV transmission line right-of-way. The sensitive resources on the hillside are separated from the construction activities by a cyclone fence. A paleontologist was on-site to monitor earthmoving activities. No fossils were noted during the subject week.

A water truck was working throughout the substation site to keep fugitive dust down on the grading and excavation operations.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

NTP #1 was approved by the CPUC on July 15, 2004. SCE is waiting for the City of Mission Viejo vote on October 30, 2004, regarding an assessment district to underground the proposed 66 kV subtransmission line through the City before moving forward with the 66 kV subtransmission line portion of the project. SCE is currently working on pre-construction compliance for the 230 kV upgrade work.

Variance Requests:

No variance requests have been submitted at this time. SCE has decided not to pursue the variance to cut approximately six feet off the toe of the slope on the access road. The large equipment will be transferred to smaller trucks that can navigate the access road into the substation.

Upcoming Items:

SCE will be submitting a request for an NTP on the 230 kV upgrade section of the project. SCE should start sending documents for compliance with the mitigation measures in the next week.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews worked on the excavation and form work for the foundations on the substation site.



Figure 2 – An operator in a backhoe loaded excess spoils into trucks for removal from the station site.



Figure 3 – Anchor bolts delivered to the upper storage area at the gravel quarry.



Figure 4 – Exclusion fencing was placed around the tower sites and work areas along the 230 kV transmission line corridor in preparation for the upcoming NTP.