



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Michael Rosauer, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 16, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #6: September 5, 2004 – September 11, 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 9 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 poured concrete into the complete foundations (see Figure 1). Several pads have been completed and are waiting for the next phase of construction (see Figure 2).

A drilling machine continued working through the very hard material in locations where substation structures require footings (see Figure 3). Several teeth on the drill head broke on the dense material. Numerous bore holes throughout the substation site have been completed and are covered by plywood and marked with orange warning flagging.

Two larger office trailers have been delivered to the site and were in the process of being set up (see Figure 4). The two smaller trailers on-site will be moved to the contractors yard at the quarry.

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.

### **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.

The installation of the exclusion fencing around the tower sites and access roads to minimize impacts to sensitive species habitat on the 230 kV corridor has been completed (see Figure 5).

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. 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 drilling and spoil hauling 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 has begun submitting pre-construction compliance materials 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 6 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 has submitted a request for an NTP on the 230 kV upgrade section of the project. SCE has started sending documents for compliance with the required mitigation measures.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:** None

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Crews poured concrete into the completed form work for the foundations on the substation site.



**Figure 2** – Several pads have been completed at the substation site.



**Figure 3** – Drilling continues in the hard material on the substation site.



**Figure 4** – New office trailers have been delivered to the substation site.



**Figure 4** – Exclusion fencing has been completed at the tower sites and work areas along the 230 kV transmission line corridor in preparation for the upcoming NTP.