



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 21, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #7: September 12, 2004 – September 18, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on September 17 and reviewed the substation construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 230 kV transmission line NTP request with SCE.

Crews continued working on building forms for the foundation of buildings on the substation site (see Figure 1). The pad for the mechanical/electrical equipment room (MEER) has completed and is ready for the stub wall pour (see Figure 2). The building will be constructed with a raised floor to facilitate the running of electrical conduit.

A drilling machine continued working between the two vertical forms for the firewalls that will separate the two A transformers (see Figure 3). The drilling crew worked with a coring bit and an auger bit for boring the holes to depth and a side-cut bit to make the shelf at the top of the foundation hole. 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. SCE will place caution tape around the drilling area after work hours. No hazard to the public is anticipated with the open holes due to the security fence around the perimeter of the site.

Two larger office trailers have been delivered set up on the northwest portion of the site. The two smaller trailers on-site will be used by the contractors at the quarry yard.

The grounding grid on the substation site has been covered in rock and the area is being used for storage of materials that have been delivered to the site. The two B transformers (66 kV) have been delivered to the site (see Figure 4). Several duct banks have been delivered to the site and have been staged near the B transformers.

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.

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 (EI) will not be on-site full-time. The LSA was on-site during the site visit, surveying the hillside adjacent to the 230 kV line for sensitive species (see Figure 5). The LSA EI is also checking the excavations and

foundation holes for sensitive and common animals. 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 and confirmed that fossils have been previously found in the formation that exists at the substation site. No fossils were noted during the subject week.

A water truck was working throughout the substation site to keep fugitive dust down on drilling 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 continues with the submittal of pre-construction compliance materials for the 230 kV upgrade work.

Variance Requests:

No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

Upcoming Items:

SCE has submitted a request for an NTP on the 230 kV upgrade section of the project. SCE has been submitting documents for compliance with the required mitigation measures.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews working on the form work for the foundations at the substation site.



Figure 2 – Completed floor and formwork for the stub walls on the MEER.



Figure 3 – Drilling continues between the vertical forms for the firewalls that will separate the two A transformers (230 kV).



Figure 4 – The two B transformers (66 kV) have been delivered to the substation site.



Figure 5 – A LSA biologist surveys for sensitive species along the 230 kV transmission line corridor in preparation for the upcoming NTP.