



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 6, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #9: September 26, 2004 – October 2, 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 30 and reviewed the substation construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the upcoming 220 kV transmission line construction with SCE.

A drilling machine continued working during the subject week. Numerous bore holes throughout the substation site have been completed and crews were building the form work for the various foundation pads. Several of the foundation pedestals have been completed and crews are preparing the area for the conduit trench (see Figure 1). Ironworkers worked to build the rebar cage for the approximately 300-foot long trench adjacent to the A-frames (see Figure 2).

The eastern firewall has been completed and the reusable formwork was moved to the western firewall and the concrete was poured on September 29. A crew worked to finish irregularities on the wall from the forms (see Figure 3). The wall height of the wall will be extended with cinderblocks once the concrete has cured. The purpose of the wall is to protect the adjacent electrical building from a transformer fire and isolate the two A transformers in case of a problem.

Several concrete trucks were on-site to pour the fifty foundation pedestals that were ready. The crews filled the forms to within a foot of the top, vibrating the concrete to remove air pockets, and then backfilled the edges before pouring to the top of the form (see Figure 4). The crews worked quickly to set the anchor bolts and finish the top of the pedestals before the concrete set (see Figure 5).

The concrete truck drivers washed out in the lowboy haul-off in the southern laydown area at the substation site. The Aspen EM spoke with SCE about drivers washing out adjacent to the lowboy. The washout area is not near any drainages or other resources.

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.

Coastal California gnatcatchers and cactus wren 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) has not been on-site full-time. The LSA EI is periodically 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 foundation excavation and boring activities. No fossils were noted during the subject week.

A water truck was on-site at the substation site. The Aspen EM informed SCE that the soil on the site was dry and susceptible to wind erosion.

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.

NTP #2 was approved by the CPUC on September 29, 2004. NTP #2 is for the 220 kV upgrade portion of the project. SCE did not start construction on the 220 kV section during the subject week.

Variance Requests:

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

Upcoming Items: SCE is working to submit the pre-construction compliance documents for the 66 kV towers immediately north of the substation site.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews working on the grounding and foundation for the preformed concrete vaults.



Figure 2 – Ironworkers built the cage for the 300-foot utility trench.



Figure 3 – Workers filled imperfections in the eastern firewall left from the reusable formwork. Cinderblocks will be added to the top where rebar protrudes.



Figure 4 – The crew poured concrete into one of the 50 foundation forms that were ready.



Figure 5 – Concrete workers placed small anchor bolts in the wet concrete prior to setting.