



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Michael Rosauer, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 20, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #11: October 10, 2004 – October 16, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on October 14 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

The concrete pour for both firewalls for the A transformers have been completed and the forms removed. The height of the firewalls was extended with cinderblocks and work on the walls is finished (see Figure 1). The purpose of the firewall is to protect the adjacent electrical building from a transformer fire and isolate the two A transformers in case of a problem. A specialized crew worked on the sheet metal walls of the 220 kV main mechanical/electrical equipment room (MEER #1) (see Figure 2). The foundation for the smaller 60 kV MEER #2 building has been poured and will be constructed after the completion of the MEER #1. An operator worked with a backhoe to excavate the main trench leading into the MEER #1 (see Figure 3). A series of smaller trenches were excavated perpendicular to the main trench. Pre-cast concrete forms will be set onto pads in both the feeder and main trenches to carry the electrical cables (see Figure 4).

Concrete trucks were on-site to pour the foundations that were ready. The concrete truck drivers washed out in the lowboy haul -off and a hay bale structure in the southern laydown area at the substation site.

Environmental Compliance:

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

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 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 excavation activities. No fossils were noted during the subject week.

A water truck was on-site at the substation site. The Aspen EM noted that no fugitive dust left the site.

220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

A drilling machine continued working on the pole foundations, moving to the lower site during the subject week (see Figure 5). An operator in a backhoe moved the spoils from the drill site to the north due to the restricted space at the tower pad. .

A crew worked on preparing a location for the concrete pour on the side slope above the southern end of the substation site (see Figure 6). The crew had difficulty setting the tripod supports for the anchor bolts and encroached into the sensitive habitat that was slated for avoidance in an exclusion zone shift the previous week. The crew also assembled the anchor bolts for the foundations (see Figure 7). The access roads to the various tower pad locations have been graded and improved for all-weather access.

Environmental Compliance:

During the previous week, SCE proposed to expand the exclusion area in several sections in exchange for removing a small section to allow access for the equipment. The change was to result in a net increase in protected habitat and result in the salvage of healthier plants and the CPUC EM approved the shift in the exclusion area. The agreement included the relocation of the orange exclusion fencing to keep construction impacts out of the traded areas. This relocation of the exclusion fencing was not completed and work progressed inside to areas slated for salvage despite the impacts to the island of vegetation that was previously protected. The CPUC EM notified SCE by voicemail and email so that the situation can be addressed.

Coastal California gnatcatchers and cactus wren have been sighted between the substation site and the transmission right-of-way near the southern gate. No impacts to the birds are anticipated due to project activities.

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 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 on the transmission line corridor to keep the access roads and work areas watered to prevent wind erosion.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

NTP #1 was approved for substation construction by the CPUC on July 15, 2004, and NTP #2 was approved for the 220 kV upgrade on September 29, 2004. SCE notified the CPUC EM that on October 18, 2004, the City of Mission Viejo denied an assessment district to underground the proposed 66 kV subtransmission line through the City.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS: SCE is expected to request an NTP for the 66 kV tower installation within the next few weeks.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – The tops of the firewalls for the A transformers were completed with cinderblocks.



Figure 2 – A specialized crew installed the metal walls for MEER #1 during the later part of the week.



Figure 3 – An operator excavated the main trench leading into the 220 kV MEER #1.



Figure 4 – A series of small pre-cast concrete trenches lead into the main trenches and then into MEER #1 or MEER #2. Pictured is the smaller trench for the 66 kV system.

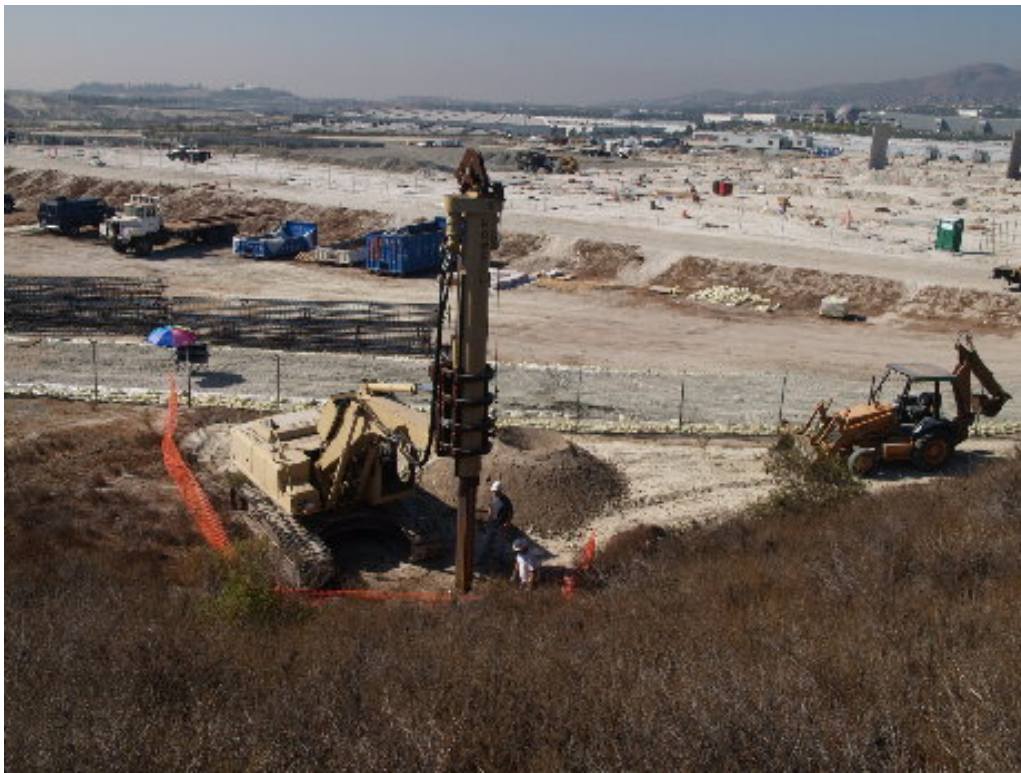


Figure 5 – The drilling machine worked on the pole foundation at the base of the hill adjacent to the south end of the substation site.



Figure 6 – A crew worked in the healthier, contiguous section coastal sage scrub habitat that was to be avoided in exchange for the island of vegetation in the foreground that has been buried.



Figure 7 – A worker assembled the anchor bolts for the 220 kV foundations on the hill above the substation site.