



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: November 10, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #14: October 31, 2004 – November 6, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 4 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and rain impacts with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Specialized crews worked on the interior of the 220 kV main mechanical/electrical equipment room (MEER #1) and the 66 kV MEER #2 on the substation site during the site visit (see Figure 1). The substation site has dried after the recent rains and work has resumed outside the MEER structures.

Several crews worked on excavation and preparation of the electrical trenches (see Figure 2). An operator worked with a backhoe to excavate a section of the trench while another crew worked on preparing the trenches for future installation of electrical cables.

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. A paleontologist was on-site to monitor the minimal activities. Several fossils have been discovered and collected for examination by the paleontologist during the course of the project. Digital photographs of the fossils have been transmitted to the CPUC EM for review.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be functioning properly in most cases. The reliance on straw wattles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and was overwhelmed by some flows during the heavy rainfall. The sandbags placed on the north end of the project near the guard shack to control the excessive run-off and sediment were replaced and the sediment from the recent rains cleaned up (see Figure 3). Two workers repaired the storm drain grating on the access road to the substation site (see Figure 4). Once the grating is repaired, filter-fabric can be used to limit sediment entering the storm drain. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective.

220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

The only work that occurred on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit was drilling of foundations southwest of the substation site. The drilling crew will work on several foundations in the same location and anticipates faster progress due to softer material. The current drilling location is imme-

diately adjacent to a tree inside the exclusion zone and the crews were being careful not to damage the tree (see Figure 5). The crew will request permission from the SCE environmental coordinator to lift the fencing to place the base of the anchor bolt support structure within the exclusion zone. No environmental impact is anticipated if the crew coordinates with the SCE biologist.

Environmental Compliance:

Some of the BMPs installed on the 220 kV right-of-way appeared to have been effective during the recent storms; however, the heavy rains and resultant sediment overwhelmed the straw waddles in several places and need maintenance (see Figure 6). Straw waddles have been installed on the tower pad sites and the access roads. The construction coordinator on the 220 kV transmission line will oversee the maintenance and upgrading of the sediment controls where they were overwhelmed or not effective.

The LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) is currently on-site full-time on the transmission line right-of-way. The biological monitoring can be reduced in accordance with the NCCP once SCE has properly installed the exclusion fencing and the construction crews are no longer working in the sensitive habitat. A paleontologist was available to monitor if construction occurred. No fossils were noted on the transmission line corridor during the subject week.

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 is expected to start submittal of pre-construction compliance materials for the 66 kV subtransmission line portion of the project soon.

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.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None

Photographs



Figure 1 – The smaller 66 kV MEER #2 has been erected on the foundation and the specialized crew worked on the exterior sheet metal.



Figure 2 – Crews worked on excavation and preparation of the pre-cast concrete electrical trenches on the substation site.



Figure 3 – The rows of sandbags placed near the guard shack were replaced and sediment removed.



Figure 4 – The grate north of the guard shack on the access road was repaired so that filter fabric could be installed properly.



Figure 5 – The drilling crew worked on several foundations at the base of the hill southeast of the substation site.



Figure 6 – Some of the straw wattle sediment barriers on the 220 kV transmission line have been overwhelmed by recent sediment and need maintenance and possible upgrading.