Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: November 24, 2004

Subject: Weekly Report #16: November 14, 2004 – November 20, 2004

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 18 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and scheduled construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

A crew worked on the formwork for the concrete trench that will connect to the 220 kV MEER #1 on the substation site during the site visit (see Figure 1). This section of poured concrete trench will connect the series of pre-fabricated trenches to MEER #1.

One crew worked with a 300-ton crane to set the B transformers on their foundations (see Figure 2). The crane arrived on-site without counterweights and was not able to extend the boom more than a few degrees away from center. This problem required the crew to move the transformers in two steps, with the crane located as close as possible to the foundations. SCE elected to unload the other equipment from the flat-bed trailers with the wheeled fork-lift. Several supports on the southern portion of the substation site were raised with a smaller crane (see Figure 3).

A small crew worked on the conduits for the fiber-optic communication lines inside the substation site (see Figure 4). A separate contractor, Three Kings Construction, worked on the fiber-optic trenches outside the actual 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) has not been 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. No fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week.

The CPUC EM reminded SCE that the fiber-optic line is part of the project and the work being completed by Three Kings Construction needs to be in compliance with all project mitigation measures. The paleontologist will coordinate with the crew on any trenching of native soils.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be functioning properly. The reliance on straw waddles instead of silt fencing for sediment control will require additional maintenance and can be overwhelmed by flows during heavy rainfall. 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:

Crews worked on erecting tower sections and preparing stub angles on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit.

A small crew worked on setting the stub angles at the final foundations along the 220 kV transmission line corridor, above the substation site during the subject week (see Figure 5). Once the stub angles are properly situated, the concrete will be poured for the lattice structure foundations.

Specialized crews started the erection of the steel sections for the southern lattice tower (see Figure 6). The bottom section of the middle lattice structure has been completed and the crews have a small section to erect before work stops (see Figure 7). The height of the lattice sections is limited by the clearances required between the structures and the live transmission lines. The crews will prepare the upper sections and wait for an outage to complete raising the lattice towers.

Environmental Compliance:

Many of the straw waddles have been moved to the side on the access roads now that the right-of-way has dried out after the recent storms. The materials will be on-site in case of any predicted storms. The BMPs along the edge of the right-of-way have been maintained and left in place.

SCE needs to move the exclusion fencing near the southern tower location. The transmission line superintendent needs to move a crane to the north side of the tower to set the eastern lattice sections. The SCE biologist will examine the habitat and monitor any vegetation clearing. SCE will place plating over the habitat and avoid the mature sage and cactus, using a sparsely vegetated corridor for access.

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 transmission 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 – Crews worked on the forms for the concrete section linking the pre-cast concrete trenches to the MEER #1.

Figure 2 – A 300-ton crane was used to place the B transformers onto foundations.

Figure 3 – A crew worked on the fiber-optic conduit within the substation site.

Figure 4 – A small crane was used to raise the supports on the southern end of the substation site.

Figure 5 – A crew set the stub angles for the northern 220 kV lattice tower foundations.

Figure 6 – Crews started erecting the lattice tower at the base of the hill southeast of the substation site.

Figure 7 – The lower section of the middle lattice structure on the 220 kV transmission corridor has been completed.