



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 1, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #17: November 21, 2004 – November 27, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 22 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and scheduled construction with SCE. Work on the substation site and on the 220 kV transmission line was limited to the first part of the week due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Crews on the southern portion of the substation site continued to prepare supports for raising (see Figure 1). Gravel has been spread over the southern half of the substation site. Gravel has been stockpiled on the north end of the substation site and will be spread once trenching has been completed (see Figure 2).

A small crew worked on the conduits for the fiber-optic communication lines inside the substation site (see Figure 3). A separate contractor, Three Kings Construction, continued working 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. 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 Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be functioning properly after the recent light rains. Crews worked to provide access around the site and to the office trailers after the rain. The reliance on straw wattles 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 continued working on erecting tower sections and preparing upper sections on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit.

The contractor completed setting the stub angles and pouring concrete at the final foundations along the 220 kV transmission line corridor, above the substation site during the subject week. Once the stub angles are properly situated, the concrete will be poured for the lattice structure foundations. A mobile crane was setting up to set section of steel in place for erection of the lower sections of the tower (see Figure 4).

Specialized crews worked on the erection of the steel sections for the southern lattice tower (see Figure 5). The bottom section of the middle lattice structure has been completed and the crews were working to assemble the next section on the ground (see Figure 6). 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 wattles had been moved to the side on the access roads once the right-of-way dried out after the recent storms. The materials were on-site in case of any predicted storms, but the recent light rains caught the construction crew by surprise and the BMPs were not put back in place. No significant erosion or sediment issues were noted after the light rains. 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. 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 – A small crew worked on the supports on the southern end of the substation site.



Figure 2 – Gravel piles were stockpiled on the northern end of the substation site while trenching is completed.



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



Figure 4 – The foundations were completed on the northern 220 kV tower and a small crane brought on-site to unload the steel for the lower tower section.



Figure 5 – Specialized crews continued erecting the lattice tower at the base of the hill southeast of the substation site.



Figure 6 – Crews worked on the ground to assemble the upper section of the middle lattice structure on the 220 kV transmission corridor.