



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 6, 2004
Subject: Weekly Report #18: November 28, 2004 – December 4, 2004
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on December 2 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and scheduled construction with SCE.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Crews on the southern portion of the substation site used a small crane to set horizontal sections on the supports (see Figure 1). The large A-frame racks have been raised and a crew worked to prepare the racks for cable (see Figure 2). The majority of the work on the large racks occurred earlier in the week, before the site visit.

The bulk of the work on the substation site during the site visit was at the formed trench entering Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) #1. The crew were resetting the form work for the poured section of trenching that will connect the pre-cast concrete trenches with MEER #1 (see Figure 3). The crews performed this task before, however water and sediment from the heavy storms damaged the form work and the forms were removed and rebuilt. The sections of pre-cast concrete trenches have to be connected with formed sections (see Figure 4).

A smaller crew worked around the substation site with a small Bobcat front-end loader, picking up trash and dropped construction materials.

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. The majority of the excavation has been completed on the substation site and no fossil discoveries were reported during the subject week.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the substation site appeared to be ready for the predicted rains. The fence between the substation site and the hill to the east has been removed to allow completion of the grading plan and the BMPs were shifted east. The crews constructed a series of sediment traps to allow any sediment in the rain run-off to settle before entering the concrete drainage ditch (see Figure 5). 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 continued working on preparing the upper tower sections on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit.

The bottom sections of all the lattice structure has been completed and raised and the crews were working to assemble the next sections on the ground (see Figure 6). No other work occurred on the transmission line segment during the site visit. 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. The upper section of the middle tower has been assembled and is secured to the lower section awaiting an outage (see Figure 7). The scheduled outage has been delayed until the first week of January due to the longer than expected outage at San Onofre Power Plant.

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 and the contractor was putting them back in place due to the predicted storm later in the week. No significant erosion or sediment issues were noted on the right-of-way. The BMPs along the edge of the right-of-way have been maintained and left in place. The contractor will move the portable toilet away from the hillside to protect against chemicals spilling into the habitat.

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.

It was noted that one of the crane outriggers was set off the access road and on the vegetation (see Figure 8). The CPUC EM will check with the SCE biologist on this issue.

The LSA Environmental Inspector (EI) is not on-site full-time on the transmission line right-of-way. A paleontologist was available to monitor if ground disturbance occurred. The majority of excavation has been completed and 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 with a crane to set the horizontal sections on the supports on the southern end of the substation site.



Figure 2 – The large racks have been raised and a crew worked to prepare the racks for cable.



Figure 3 – A larger crew worked to rebuild the trench forms leading into MEER #1.



Figure 4 – The pre-cast concrete sections of trench need to be connected by formed sections at angles and intersections (see darker formed angle).



Figure 5 – A series of sediment traps were constructed further to the east after the fence was removed.



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



Figure 7 – The upper section of the middle lattice structure on the 220 kV transmission corridor has been assembled and is ready to raise.



Figure 8 – A mobile crane outrigger was set off the access road into the vegetation on the 220 kV transmission corridor.