Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: December 14, 2004

Subject: Weekly Report #19: December 5–11, 2004

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on December 9 and reviewed the substation and 220 kV construction activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and scheduled construction with SCE. Light rains during the subject week caused access difficulties on the substation site and 220 kV right-of-way.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

Crews on the southern portion of the substation site worked to tie-in conduits to the pre-cast concrete trench (see Figure 1). The bulk of the work on the substation site during the site visit continued to be at the Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) #1. The crew finished pouring section of trenching that will connect the pre-cast concrete trenches with MEER #1 and were finishing the recent pour of the slab (see Figure 2).

An operator in a backhoe worked to remove ruts in the access road within the substation site and preserve safe access throughout the facility. A small multi-purpose machine was fitted with a sweeper attachment and used to clean the public roads outside the substation site. Once the roads were swept, the water truck was used to wash down any remaining soil tracked from the site (see Figure 3).

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 have been effective during the light rains. 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:

Hill Crane brought a large mobile crane on-site to raise the steel poles on the 220 kV transmission line corridor during the site visit (see Figure 4).

The crane was set up on the pad prepared between the middle and southern lattice towers and was able to reach the pole sections staged in the workspace south of the substation site. Once the lower sections had been set and secured to the foundations, the crew prepared the steel poles for the upper sections (see Figure 5). 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 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 waddles had been moved to the side on the access roads to allow access during construction. The materials were on-site and the contractor was putting them back in place when no work was occurring in case of unexpected rains. 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 has not moved the portable toilet away from the hillside to protect against chemicals spilling into the habitat (see Figure 6).

SCE has moved the exclusion fencing near the southern tower location (see Figure 7). 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 has examined the habitat and will 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 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 to connect conduits to the pre-cast trench on the southern end of the substation site.

Figure 2 – A larger crew worked on finishing the concrete slab outside the south wall of MEER #1. The backhoe operator worked on maintaining the access road.

Figure 3 – An operator washed down the road after cleaning off the majority of dust and mud with the sweeper.

Figure 4 – Hill Crane set the steel pole sections on the foundations southeast of the substation site.

Figure 5 – Workers prepared the steel towers for the upper sections once the lower sections were secured.

Figure 6 – The chemical toilet is still on the hill over the drainage near the northern lattice structure on the 220 kV transmission corridor.

Figure 7 – The proposed crane access at the lower lattice structure on the 220 kV transmission corridor has been delineated.