



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** February 16, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #28: February 6, 2004 – February 12, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on February 10 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

### **SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

1. NRG crews worked on the 66 kV cable and disconnect switches, as well as circuit breakers during the subject week. Crews with NRG also worked on the disconnect switch, bypasses, and circuit breaker on the 220 kV section of the substation (see Figure 1). A NRG crew worked with a small mobile crane to set steel in the 220 kV section of the substation.
2. SCE was not working on the A-bank transformers during the site visit due to periodic training. The installation of external piping, cooling fins, tanks, and other items remain in the dressing process of the A-bank transformers.
3. The Mechanical Electrical Engineering Room (MEER) contractor, EMSS, continued on wiring the 19-inch racks within MEER #1. The crew from the SCE Testing and Maintenance section continued testing the 66 kV and 220 kV equipment within MEER #1. The fiber optic contractor worked to splice the fiber optic in MEER #1 (see Figure 2).
4. A crew with Kindness worked to frame a new trench for cables entering MEER #1 after the previous conduit bank was insufficient to handle the amount of cables entering the building (see Figure 3).
5. Engineers with SCE reviewed the steel poles erected on the 66 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 4). The welds at the base of the poles are off, causing the poles to be out of plumb. The problem is not anticipated to affect the structural integrity of the poles.
6. Southwest Ditch completed the drainage system within the substation site. A small section of the system will be completed by the 66 kV contractor after the access road has been graded. The system is designed to take water from throughout the substation site to catch-basins located on the north side. Very little, if any, water drains through the very compact native soil on the 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. 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 have been installed and maintained. Crews were observed replacing BMPs that were impacted by daily construction activities. 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 as SCE prepared for upcoming rains.

## **220 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**

### **Summary of Activity:**

No work occurred on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way during the CPUC EM site visit.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

Additional BMPs have been installed on the 220 kV transmission line right-of-way. Silt fencing has been installed around the structures and the landscaping cloth at the drainage has been replaced with the proper material.

## **66 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT**

### **Summary of Activity:**

The NTP for the 66 kV work adjacent to the substation site was issued on February 1, 2005, and grading started during the subject week.

1. The SCE transmission line contractor excavated the foundations for the 66 kV steel poles within the substation site (see Figure 5). The crew followed the same procedure as the drilling contractor for the steel support foundations within the substation site, but with a larger diameter excavation.
2. Once the foundations had been excavated, the rebar cages and anchors bolts were placed in preparation for the concrete pour.
3. The civil contractor for the 66 kV transmission right-of-way worked to construct the pads and access roads for the permanent and temporary poles leaving the substation site. The crew used a small bulldozer and a backhoe to create the pad for the pad and a front-end loader to import spoils to build up the pad (see Figure 6). A geologist was on-site to test the compaction of the pad during construction and after completion.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM met with the SCE Biologist on January 25 to review the habitat fencing and access roads for the 66 kV transmission line segment adjacent to the substation site. Some of the habitat fencing was altered due to the type of equipment used by the contractor and the slope of the access routes. The changes in the area of impact were reviewed by the SCE Biologist and the LSA EI prior to clearing. The clearing has been completed at all the 66 kV pad locations addressed in NTP #3.

The CPUC EM reviewed concerns over the placement and installation of BMPs on the 66 kV right-of-way with the SCE Biologist. Many of the BMPs would not stop sediment from leaving the construction area or were installed parallel to the slope (see Figure 7).

LSA was contacted on the drilling for the 66 kV poles within the substation site and a paleontological monitor was on-site. No fossil remains were noted 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. NTP #3 for 66 kV construction within the City of Lake Forest was issued by CPUC on February 1, 2005.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

**UPCOMING ITEMS:**

None.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – A small NRG crew worked on the 220 kV bypasses.



**Figure 2** – The fiber optic contractor worked on splicing within MEER #1.





**Figure 3** – Kindness worked on the cable trench entering MEER #1. The trench will replace the conduit that was too small for the number of cables entering MEER #1.



**Figure 4** – Engineers reviewed the poles that were out of plumb due to fabrication errors.



**Figure 5** – The drilling contractor worked to excavate the foundation for the 66 kV poles.



**Figure 6** – A small bulldozer was used to cut the pad for the 66 kV pole.





**Figure 7** – The BMPs originally installed on the 66 kV right-of-way will need improvement to handle the predicted rain events.