

# Aspen Environmental Group

# PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** March 30, 2005

**Subject:** Weekly Report #34: March 20 – March 26, 2005.

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on March 22 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). All construction activities during the site visit were within the substation site.

#### **SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION**

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

- 1. Two new foundations were being set during the site visit to set an additional set of poles at the A-transformer banks to gain the required off-set between the wires and the oil tank on the top of the transformer (see Figure 1). The configuration of the transformer was slightly different than anticipated by the engineers and the field change was required to provide the proper off-set.
- 2. Testing crews worked inside MEER #1 to test the circuit breakers and associated computer systems (see Figure 2).
- 3. Reycon continued working on the western side of the block wall during the site visit. The wall will have several step-downs along the western side to address the gentle slope. Reycon also worked to set the blocks for the spill wall on the north side of the substation site (see Figure 3). The spill wall will be coated and will block any spilled petroleum from reaching the drainage system.
- 4. The Union crew worked to build the forms and pour the foundation for the main gate during the site visit (see Figure 4). The gate will consist of two 12-foot swinging gates, set low to prevent passage underneath.
- 5. Several small crews with NRG continued working to connect the various conductors on the 66 kV section of the substation site. NRG crews also worked on connecting the foundations and equipment on the 12 kV portion of the site to the grounding grid (see Figure 5).
- 6. The fencing was installed on the poles for the cyclone fencing that will be on the eastern side of the substation site during the site visit (see Figure 6).

#### **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. SCE has placed additional rock on the substation site, reducing the turbidity and sediment travel in rain events.

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. No off-site impacts were noted during the site visit and the maintenance of the BMPs appeared to be effective as SCE prepared for any future rains. The substation crews have been constantly improving the BMPs as work is completed in sections of the substation site.

#### 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

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

No construction occurred on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

## **Environmental Compliance:**

The BMP issues at the steel pole pad on the 220 kV transmission right-of-way have been addressed and no other storm water related issues were noted during the site visit.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. No construction work was occurring in the vicinity.

#### 66 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

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

The NTP for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005. No work occurred on the 66 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

# **Environmental Compliance:**

Many of the BMPs stopped sediment from leaving the construction area; however, some continue to need maintenance. The v-ditches will need to be cleaned of sediment prior to any predicted rain events.

# 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 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 – New poles will be placed to gain the proper off-set between the circuits and the oil tank on the A-bank transformers.



**Figure 2** – Testing crews worked to check the circuit breakers and associated computer systems within MEER #1.



Figure 3 – Reycon started setting the concrete blocks for the spill wall on the north side of the substation site.



**Figure 4** – Union poured the foundations for the main gate posts for the substation site.



**Figure 5** – NRG worked to connect the 12 kV structures to the grounding grid.



**Figure 6** – The fencing was placed on the poles for the cyclone fence during the site visit. The cyclone fencing will only be on the eastern portion of the substation site and will not be visible from the public right-of-way.