



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 19, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #37: April 10 – April 16, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on April 15 and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction or restoration activities were occurring in the all three areas during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Work continued on the main trench running east-west, dividing the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site. The first section of the form has been poured and preparations were underway for the pouring of the next section.
2. NRG continued making connections within the 66 kV section of the substation site. The crew worked on many of the short connections between various pieces of equipment and the conductors running from the risers (see Figure 1).
3. Reycon continued working on architectural details for the block wall around the substation during the site visit. The gateposts and block columns for the gate at the public right-of-way have been placed (see Figure 2).
4. Work occurred on the public right-of-way during the site visit as crews trenched, placed conduit, and backfilled on Definition Road between the substation entrance and Glenn Ranch Road (see Figure 3). Traffic control was in place and the slurry trucks were being washed out in the trench; however, the traffic control for the saw-cutting near the Definition Road gate left little room for two-way traffic around the sharp bend in the road.
5. The 220 kV circuits from the risers to the 220 kV section of the substation site have been removed as a safety measure when the 220 kV portion of the substation site is energized. The 220 kV section of the substation site will be marked off with caution tape when energized and the disconnection of the circuit will allow crews to work safely in the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation site. With the completion of the majority of the civil work, the remaining crews at the substation site have experience working in energized stations. SCE previously provided the CPUC EM was provided with an orientation on visiting an energized station.

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:

One restoration crew from American worked on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit. The crew backfilled and re-contoured the slope cut for the man-lift outriggers during construction of the 220 kV line (see Figure 4). The crew has been informed of the California gnatcatcher nests in the area and work was confined to the disturbed area.

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. Only restoration work was occurring in the southern area near the nesting birds. The SCE biologist will work with the crews to avoid any impact to the habitat or disturbance of the nesting birds.

Although common mariposa lilies were observed blooming on the 220 kV right-of-way, no foothill mariposa lilies were noted by the CPUC EM during a brief walk along the right-of-way (see Figure 5).

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. A crew worked with two larger man-lifts to run conductor between two steel poles on the 66 kV section above the substation site (see Figure 6). The conductor will bypass the substation temporarily and will be removed after conduit is strung from each pole into the 66 kV section of the substation and the 66 kV section is ready for energization.

Environmental Compliance:

Work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way above the substation site during the site visit was in compliance with mitigation measures for the project. The SCE Biologist was on-site to observe the construction activities. A survey crew worked briefly in the habitat to set a survey point, otherwise no activity occurred inside the exclusion fencing.

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. NTP #4 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures (Mission Viejo and City of Lake Forest) was issued by CPUC on April 19, 2005.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

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

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: The CPUC EM reviewed survey protocols for the foothill mariposa lily with the USFWS for NTP #4. The USFWS stated that surveys are considered valid for up to 12 months; however, the USFWS prefers new surveys if significant changes in site conditions, such as the increased rainfall this season, occur.

Photographs



Figure 1 – NRG continued working on the small connections between the various equipment within the 66 kV section of the substation.



Figure 2 – The Reycon crew has built the block columns at the gate on Definition Road.
Note: The truck and chipper are not project-related.



Figure 3 – Crews trenched, placed conduit, and backfilled on Definition Road between the substation entrance and Glenn Ranch Road.



Figure 4 – The crew with American worked to restore sections of the hillside impacted during 220 kV construction.



Figure 5 – Common mariposa lilies were observed in bloom on the 220 kV right-of-way.



Figure 6 – Crews worked on conductor for the 66 kV line east of the substation during the site visit.