Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: May 11, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #40, May 1 – May 7, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on May 3rd and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were only occurring in the substation during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Work has been completed on the main trench running east-west, dividing the 220 kV and 66 kV sections of the substation site. Crews have installed the steel grating over the concrete trench (see Figure 1).

2. Several small NRG crews 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 insulators.

3. No additional work was observed on the block wall during the site visit. The small spill containment wall on the north side of the substation has been coat with a polymer that will contain petroleum products in case of a spill. Foam blocks have been placed in spaces in the wall to be replaced with glass block details.

4. Light standards have been set on the 12 kV section of the substation site. Manual disconnect switches have been connected on the north end of the 66 kV portion of the site (connecting to the 12 kV portion) and have been formed for pouring the foundation (see Figure 2).

5. A small crew worked to test the 66 kV transformers and associated equipment in preparation for energizing that section of the substation site.

6. The forms around the A-bank transformers have been prepared for concrete and the pour was scheduled for later in the week. A crew worked to grade the section between the forms in preparation for future form work (see Figure 3). An asphalt berm will be placed around the perimeter of the pad to contain the oil from the transformers in case of an accident.

7. A crew with Arizona Pipeline worked on Ellipse Road outside the substation site on the 12 kV buried cables connecting the substation to the distribution network (see Figure 4). The crews have been trenching, placing conduit and backfilling with a slurry mix. The CPUC EM noted that traffic controls have been improved within the work area. The crews were working with local businesses to allow access across the work area for employees. A second crew worked to unload vaults on the corner of Portola Parkway and Glenn Ranch Road (see Figure 5).

8. 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 has been marked off with caution tape now that it is 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 from the rainfall over the previous weekend.

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 with the recent rainfall. Some areas of the site were muddy from the rainfall, but no sediment transport or turbidity issues were noted. The recent clean-up work at the site and the v-ditches greatly minimized the possibility of sediment transport off the substation site.

220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

No work was observed on the 220 kV transmission line segment during the site visit.

Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC EM informed the SCE biologist during the previous week that the invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way need to be removed due to the proximity of the native plant communities. This issue has yet to be addressed. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area.

Several sensitive bird species were noted in the habitat adjacent to the 220 kV right-of-way. The SCE biologist will work with the crews to avoid any impact to the habitat or disturbance of the nesting birds.

66 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT

Summary of Activity:

NTP #3, for the 66 kV work within the City of Lake Forest was issued on February 1, 2005 and NTP #4 was issued on April 19, 2005 for the remaining 66 kV H-structures. The transmission line crew worked on clipping in conductor on the 66 kV structures within the substation site (see Figure 6). The conductor temporarily bypassing the substation is still in place and will be removed after the 66 kV section is ready for energization.

No construction was observed on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo (NTP #4).

Environmental Compliance:

All work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way above the substation site during the site visit was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

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: Construction is scheduled to start on the 66 kV H-structures in early-May.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs

Figure 1 – Crews have installed the steel grate trench covers.

Figure 2 – The manual disconnect switches have been set and the forms for the foundation are ready for concrete.

Figure 3 – A crew graded for the concrete pads that will be poured between the various foundations.

Figure 4 – Arizona Pipeline worked on Ellipse Road, trenching, laying conduit for the 12 kV distribution conductor, and backfilling with slurry.

Figure 5 – Arizona Pipeline worked to unload trench vaults on Portola Parkway during the site visit.

Figure 6 – Crews worked on clipping in conductor between the 66 kV line and the substation during the site visit.