Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: June 16, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #45, June 5 – June 11, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on June 7th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities were occurring in the substation and on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit. Construction activities within the substation site are getting close to completion.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. Several small NRG crews continued working within the 12 kV section of the substation site (see Figure 1). The B-bank transformers are not energized. These smaller transformers run between the 66 kV and 12 kV sections of the substation. The 66 kV section of the substation has been energized and is marked by safety tape.

2. A permanent generator was delivered to the MEER #1 and will be wired into the system to run as a backup (see Figure 2).

3. The 220 kV section of the substation site has been marked off with caution tape now that it is energized. The several sections of the 66 kV portion of the site, which are energized, have been surrounded with cyclone fencing and caution tape as well. 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 turbidity and sediment travel in the case of rainfall.

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.

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 previously 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. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The invasive plant species were removed and SCE will be watching the area for any emerging non-native plants.

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 when work resumes in the area.

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. Three crews were working on the 66 kV segment during the site visit. Construction has started on the 66 kV line within Mission Viejo, immediately south of the 241 toll-road (NTP #4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation.

1. The foundation for the H-structure nearest the substation site, Structure 13, has been poured and a crew worked to remove the steel forms from the two foundations for the structure (see Figure 3).

2. The crew drilling at Structure 10 returned to the site after a short break and continued excavating the foundations (see Figure 4). Structure 10 is on the outskirts of Mission Viejo and no involvement with the public was noted by the CPUC EM.

3. A large mobile crane was moved to Structure 12 and crews worked to raise the steel pole sections that will make up the H-structure (see Figure 5). The upper section of the pole is bolted onto the lower section to allow for a more precise alignment between the two pole sections. Workers helped align the pole as it was lowered by the crane operator and then bolted the upper section (see Figure 6). The operation proceeded very smoothly during the site visit. The adjacent circuit was de-energized during the operation for safety.

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. New exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

The LSA EI was on-site during the site visit and no issues of environmental concerns were noted by the CPUC EM. A water truck was working on the access roads to control fugitive dust.

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: None.

Photographs

Figure 1 – NRG continued working on the 12 kV portion of the substation.

Figure 2 – An emergency generator was set outside MEER #1.

Figure 3 – The forms for the new foundations for Structure 13 were removed during the site visit.

Figure 4 – Work continued on the foundations for Structure 10, in the City of Mission Viejo.

Figure 5 – A large mobile crane was set up on-site to assist in raising the steel sections of H-Structure 12.

Figure 6 – Workers helped guide the upper section of the east pole for H-Structure 12 and then bolted the sections together.