



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: July 20, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #50, July 10 – July 16, 2005.
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on July 13th 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, but activities on the 66 kV right-of-way stopped early due to cancellation of the outage required to perform the work. Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. The electrical subcontractor, Hampton Tedder, had a crew working on the 12 kV racks during the site visit (see Figure 1). The crew worked to connect the underground cables that will connect the substation site to the SCE distribution system. Two of the four bundles stubbed out at the 12 kV portion of the substation site have been connected to the racks.
2. The road contractor has started working on the asphalt within the substation site and the access road between the substation site and Definition Road (see Figure 2). The contractor worked with motor-graders and blades to prepare the roads prior to paving. Water trucks were used to keep the fugitive dust under control and keep the moisture content of the soil at the best level for compaction. The temporary generators were moved to allow paving around MEER #1.
3. A small crew worked to repair sections of the grounding grid that were damaged during the grading process. The workers laid new lengths of copper grounding wire and connected them by CAD welding (see Figure 3).
4. 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 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 removed many of the BMPs in order to complete the paving within the substation site. Sediment and erosion control devices were on-site to address any unexpected precipitation.

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 was 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.

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 invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native plant communities, are re-sprouting and will need to be addressed. Ideally, the plants would be removed before seed production to reduce the amount of seed in the soil for the next growing season. 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 if any 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. Only one crew was 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 Hill Crane was set up at Structure 7 and the crew worked in the morning, before work was shut down in order to re-energize the adjacent power line (see Figure 4). Work cannot safely proceed without taking the adjacent lines out of service. Those lines were needed to address the power demands during the extended heat spell.
2. H-Structures 10, 9, and 8 have been raised and the cross members attached (see Figure 5).

Environmental Compliance:

All work observed on the 66 kV right-of-way during the site visit was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements. Exclusion fencing has been placed between the work areas and sensitive avian habitat along the 66 kV right-of-way.

The LSA EI has been on-site for the construction activities and no issues of environmental concerns were noted by the CPUC EM.

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 – A Hampton Tedder crew worked to connect the underground cables to the racks; thereby connecting the substation site to the SCE distribution system.



Figure 2 – The paving contractor worked to grade the road sites prior to paving.



Figure 3 – A small crew worked to repair the grounding grid within the substation site.



Figure 4 – The Hill Crane was at Structure 7, waiting for work to resume.



Figure 5 – Raised H-Structures 8, 9, and 10, looking to the north. H-Structure 8 is in the foreground and H-Structures 9 and 10 are in the distance.