



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: July 26, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #51, July 17 – July 23, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on July 20th 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 in the 12 kV vault on Portola Parkway during the site visit (see Figure 1). The vault connects the 12 kV from the substation to the local distribution system. Hampton Tedder has connected four sets of three 12 kV underground conductors to the racks in the substation.
2. The road contractor has finished the rough grading for the asphalt road within the substation site (see Figure 2). No work was occurring on paving during the site visit.
3. A subcontractor worked with a backhoe to excavate the trench for the fire control system (see Figure 3). The ground was very hard and progress on the trenching was slow.
4. Two workers used a small trenching machine to excavate a trench for the irrigation system. Small modifications were made to the alignment of the underground section of the irrigation system to avoid placing line under the future paved road in case any repairs are necessary.
5. 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. 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 6 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. Arizona Pipeline may take some time off until work can proceed without interruption.
2. H-Structures 10, 9, and 8 have been raised and the cross members attached. Most of the work has been completed on Structure 7.

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 in the underground vault on Portola Parkway, connecting the substation site to the SCE distribution system.



Figure 2 – The paving contractor finished rough grading of the substation roadway prior to paving.



Figure 3 – A subcontractor worked to trench through the hard ground and lay the water supply line for the fire control system.



Figure 4 – The Hill Crane was at Structure 6, waiting for work to resume.