



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August 3, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #52, July 24 – July 30, 2005.  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on July 27<sup>th</sup> 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 were 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 continuing work in the 12 kV vault on Portola Parkway during the site visit. 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 and the 12 kV section of the substation is now energized and marked off for safety as work continues within the substation.
2. The road contractor had crews working on setting up the boundaries of the roads within the substation site in preparation for paving (see Figure 1). No work was occurring on paving during the site visit.
3. Trenching for the water line leading into the substation site is near completion and much of the PVC pipe has been laid into the trench (see Figure 2). Sections of the open trench on the south end of the access road have been covered with steel plates for safety and to provide access.
4. An SCE crew worked within the substation site on the 12 kV system during the site visit.
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:**

1. For all operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.
2. Straw waddles have been placed at the end of the driveway to prevent sediment from entering the public right-of-way and keep it away from storm drains during trenching for the water line (see Figure 3).
3. A rabbit was observed within a section of the water pipe staged on the access road. The pipe in the trench has been capped and care will have to be taken to be sure no animals are trapped in the line.

4. 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.
5. 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. A mobile crane has been set up at Structure 7; however, work was shutdown while the crew waited for longer ISO outages. 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. The drilling crew worked at Structure 1, preparing the foundations for the concrete pour (see Figure 4). The two foundations have been excavated and the concrete pumping crew worked to set of the pumper and hoses leading down to the excavation. Operators worked with two backhoes to move the re-bar cage down to the excavation (see Figure 5). An SCE inspector was on-site to check the foundations and concrete pour.

### **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** – The paving contractor crew worked on installing the borders for the substation roadway prior to paving.



**Figure 2** – A subcontractor trenched along the access road to lay the water supply line for the fire control system.



**Figure 3** – BMPs were installed to prevent sediment from entering the public roadway and adjacent storm drains.



**Figure 4** – The drilling crew worked to prepare H-Structure 1 (at Chiquita Substation) for the concrete pour.



**Figure 5** – The re-bar cage was moved to the excavation at H-Structure 1 (at Chiquita Substation).