**Aspen**
*Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC

**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** August 10, 2005

**Subject:** Weekly Report #53, July 31 – August 6, 2005.

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on August 4th 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 road contractor had crews working with a grader to complete final grading of the roads within the substation site in preparation for paving. The roads around the edges of the site will receive base prior to the asphalt and the roads crossing through the site will receive an extra 2 inches of asphalt instead of base rock. A backhoe was used to place rock on the apron on the roads prior to placing asphalt (see Figure 1). No water truck was on-site for the work during the site visit. The contractor was pulling a small water trailer behind a pickup truck (see Figure 2). The water trailer had very little pressure and dust was still visible leaving the work area during the rock moving activities. SCE has requested that the contractor bring a water truck to the site to control dust during paving activities. No work was occurring on paving during the site visit.

2. No progress was observed on the water line leading into the substation site during the subject week. 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.

3. An SCE crew worked within the substation site on the 12 kV system during the site visit. The crew worked to connect the 12kV station light and power to both the 12 kV rack and the transformer adjacent to MEER #1 (see Figure 3). The power cable between the 12 kV rack and MEER #1 has been placed underground.

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:

1. Watering of the gravel pile and grading will need to improve to avoid off right-of-way fugitive dust. For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permitting requirements.

2. Straw wattles 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 is occurring 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. Work cannot safely proceed on attaching the arms to the H-Structures 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 on this activity until work can proceed without interruption.

2. An Arizona Pipeline crew worked at Olympiad Park to form and pour a concrete access way at the curb (see Figure 4). Access to the right-of-way passed through a portion of the park and SCE will restore the access according to the previous agreement with the park. The concrete v-ditch adjacent to the access road was cleaned of debris and sediment. The concrete path crossed by the access route was damaged by the heavy equipment and may require repair and/or improvement. Work on the excavation of foundations for the H-Structures has been completed and the drilling machine will be removed from the Chiquita Substation area soon.

**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.

SCE was notified by the CPUC EM about a small oil spill in the work area near Structure 1 (see Figure 5). The spill was small and appeared to be relatively new automobile oil. Arizona Pipeline dispatched a small crew to address the spill.

**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 placing rock on the borders for the substation roadway prior to paving.

**Figure 2** – A small water trailer was used to control dust rather than a water truck during the site visit.


**Figure 3** – An SCE crew worked to connect station light and power during the site visit.

**Figure 4** – An Arizona Pipeline crew worked on the curb access at Olympiad Park.

**Figure 5 –** The small oil spill at the Chiquita Substation will be addressed by Arizona Pipeline.