Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: October 12, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #61, October 2 – October 8, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on October 2nd and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion and no work was occurring within the substation site during the site visit.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Summary of Activity:

1. 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. SCE engineers are working to make the second set of revisions required by the water department and resubmit the permit application so that the water line work can resume. The CPUC EM informed SCE that the trench and pipe will need to be examined by a biologist prior to work resuming. Animals may have taken up residence in the trench or pipe since work was suspended. With the upcoming rainy season, SCE will have to address dewatering and sediment control if water enters the trench.

2. 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. All operations observed by the CPUC EM were 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.

3. The temporary generators outside MEER #1 have been placed in a visquene lined berm to prevent the spilling of fuel.

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:

1. The invasive plant species in the recontoured area of the 220 kV right-of-way, adjacent to the native plant communities, have been removed by SCE without disturbing the native species. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area.

2. Several sensitive bird species have been 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 near the substation and within Mission Viejo, 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. SCE transmission line crews worked to set guard structures between Olympiad Park and H-Structure 1 during the site visit. The crews worked with a truck-mounted auger and hand tools to excavate holes for the guard structures (see Figure 1). Guard structures have already been placed on the north side of the park to protect the road to the gated community. Anchors may be required downslope from the guard structures. The CPUC EM informed the foreman that any work outside the disturbed areas needs to be coordinated with the SCE biologist. The rest of H-Structure 1 has been set in place and half the arms have been attached (see Figure 2). The remaining arms on H-Structure 1 and the poles to the north will be attached once the adjacent conductor has been taken down.

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.

BMPs have been placed at the base of the guard structures to prevent the loose material from being transported onto the public right-of-way.

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. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

VARIANCE REQUESTS: No variance requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

UPCOMING ITEMS: None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None.

Photographs

Figure 1 – The transmission line crew used a truck mounted auger and hand tools to excavate for the guard structures.

Figure 2 – The remainder of H-Structure 1 has been raised.
The remaining arms will be attached once the other line has been removed.