Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE – VIEJO SYSTEM PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: December 6, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #68, November 27 – December 3, 2005.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Christopher Meyer

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit on November 28th and reviewed the substation, 220 kV, and 66 kV construction activities, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). No site visit was conducted during the short Thanksgiving holiday week (November 20th – November 26th) due to limited activity on the project.

SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

Construction activities within the substation site are close to completion and only minimal work, relating to the stringing work, was occurring within the substation site during the site visit. Only one crew was observed working within the Viejo Substation during the site visit.

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 recent rains, SCE will have to address dewatering and sediment control now that water has entered the trench. A crew from the telecommunications company was hauling the spoils from the water trench to the work area behind the substation during the site visit (see Figure 1). This is necessary to allow room to trench in the communication line on the east side of the main access road. The delay in completing the water line may be related to a request by the Water Department to use a higher pressure line to address recent changes in their requirements since the process started. This may be addressed by moving the fire hydrant to the curb at Definition Road. SCE may elect to backfill the trench during the winter and resolve the issue at a later time.

2. After completing the initial installation of lighting within the Viejo Substation, SCE reviewed the light pattern and determined that additional lighting within the substation was required. A crew worked on placing these additional light standards during the site visit (see Figure 2).

3. 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. The large spoils pile behind the Viejo Substation will need to be removed or stabilized. The CPUC EM recommended removal of the spoils in dry conditions to avoid tracking of mud or dripping of muddy water onto the public right-of-way.

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. These Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been maintained prior to and after the recent rainfall.

3. High winds over the weekend resulted in one portable toilet being blown over and trash blowing out of the trash can by MEER #1 (see Figure 3). SCE will remove the trash and secure the cover on the trash can. No water quality impacts resulted from the overturned portable toilet.

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. However, some of this area was disturbed during the site visit by a crew placing communication conduit along the SCE right-of-way. The disturbance to the steep road leading from the main access road for the substation to the lattice towers has been disturbed by the communication trench and will be rocked to address erosion. This crew is not part of the Viejo System Project. The area adjacent to the project is dominated by native species and is part of a habitat conservation area. The parts of the 220 kV right-of-way that have not recently been disturbed are showing natural revegetation by native species.

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 during the breeding season.

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. Construction is spread between the Viejo Substation, through within Mission Viejo, to the Chiquita Substation (NTP #4). The structures are numbered 1 through 13, with Structure 13 immediately adjacent to the Viejo Substation and Structure 1 adjacent to the Chiquita Substation.

1. SCE transmission line crews prepared to pull conductor on the east arm of the H-Structures during the site visit (see Figure 4). Most of the old 66 kV steel poles have been wrecked out to make room for the east arms on the H-Structures and the stringing of the eastern circuit. Crews were working from Olympiad Park to the north pulling in the sock line that will be used to pull the new conductor in later in the week (see Figure 5). No other work was noted during the site visit.

2. SCE is working to bring a larger crane on-site for the removal of those old 66 kV steel poles that will require a greater reach to the pole site or have other complications that the current crane could not address.

Environmental Compliance:

1. 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. This may be removed now that work in the area has been completed to avoid impacts to wildlife. Workers have observed rabbits with pieces of the orange fencing around their necks (presumably after chewing threw the fencing after getting caught).

2. A street sweeper was working on the project during the site visit to address dirt tracked onto the public roadways.

3. BMPs have been implemented at the base of the guard structures to prevent the loose material from being transported onto the public right-of-way. The BMPs placed in v-ditches below the new pads have been maintained in preparation for predicted rainfall.

4. The slope below the pads above the Viejo Substation have been covered with jute netting in preparation for restoration and native vegetation has emerged through the netting. The non-native species should be removed before they produce seed.

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

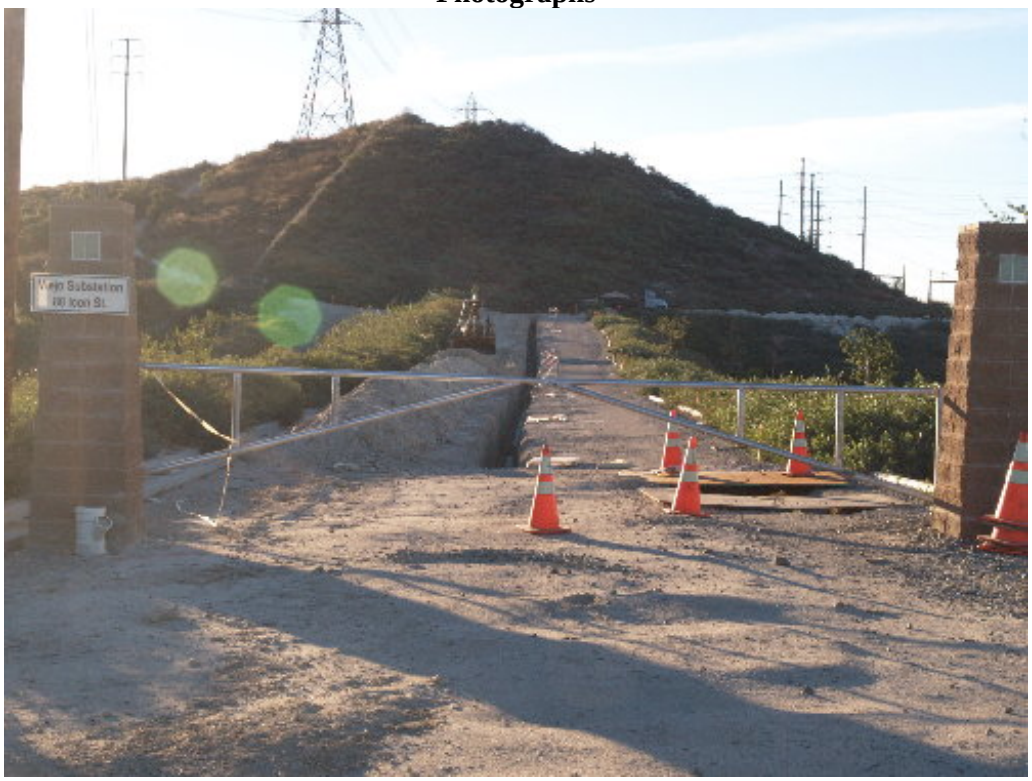

Figure 1 – The company installing a communication line along the main access road removed the spoils from the water line in order to trench along the east side of the line.

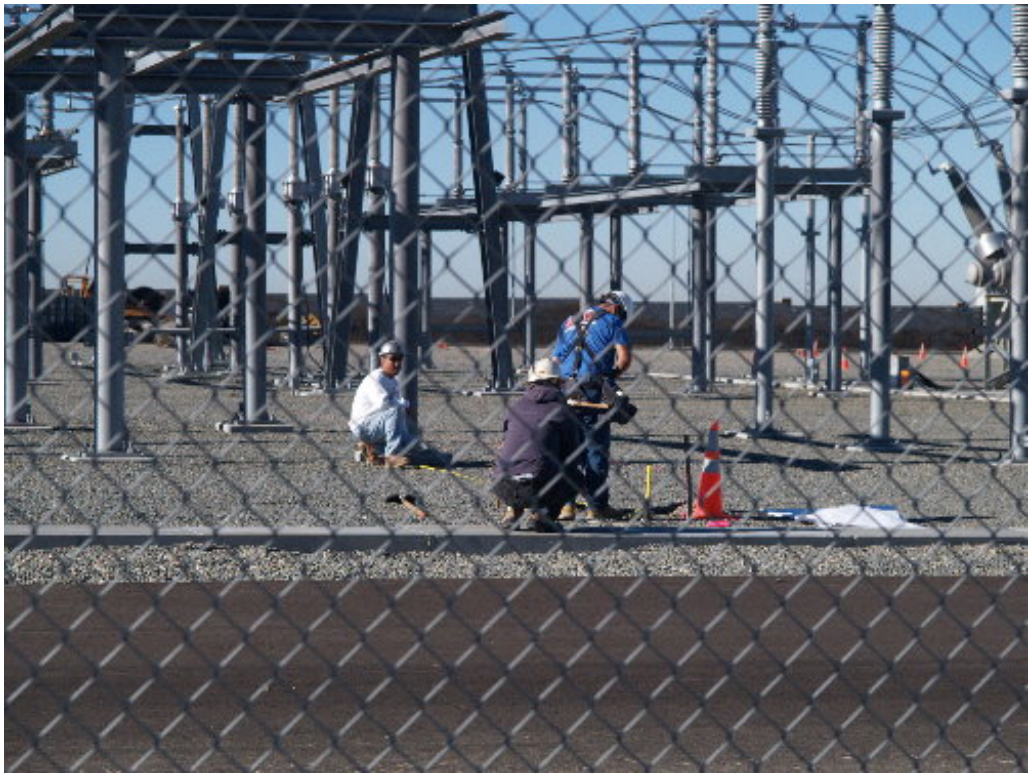

Figure 2 – A small crew worked within the Viejo Substation on placing additional light standards.

Figure 3 – One portable toilet was blown over by high winds and trash was spread around at MEER #1.

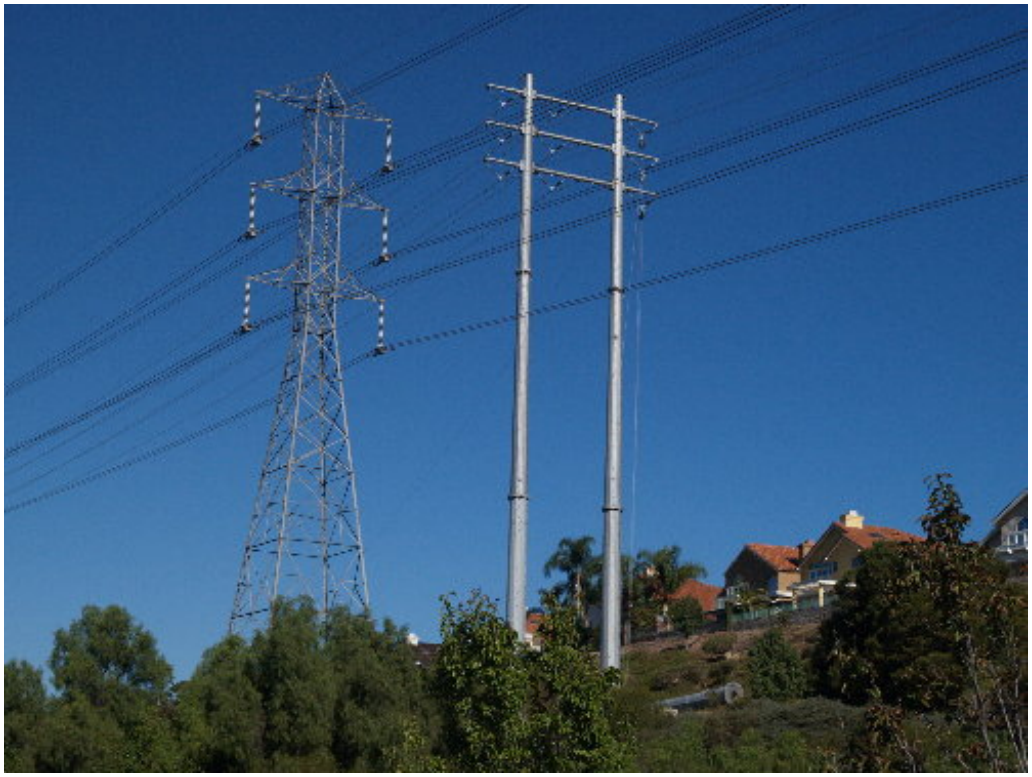

Figure 4 – The east arm has been installed on the H-Structures now that many of the old 66 kV steel poles have been removed. Note the old steel pole on the ground.

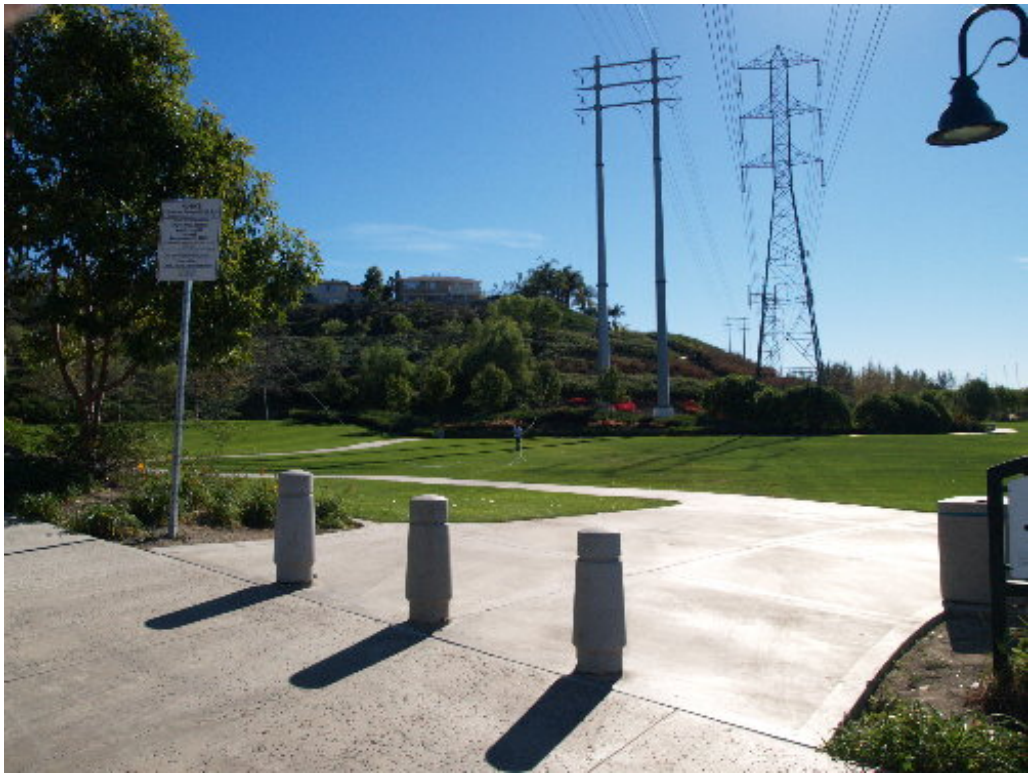

Figure 5 – SCE worked within Olympiad Park pulling sock line in preparation for stringing the new conductor on the east arm of the H-Structures.