

	<b>California Public Utilities Commission</b> <b><i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></b>
	<b>Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects</b>  <b>Compliance Status Report: 017</b>  <b>May 14, 2017</b>

## SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/FEIS to mitigate or avoid impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC's third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. Photos of site observations are included in Attachment A of this report. A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTP) and Minor Project Refinement Requests (MPRRs) are provided in Attachments B and C, respectively.

This compliance status report covers construction activities from May 1 through May 14, 2017.

## MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

### *Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring*

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas under active construction, which included Transmission Lines (TL) 625B, 629E, 6931, geotechnical work at TL 682, and Staging Yards. Areas of active and inactive construction were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project's MMCRP. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed in the field.

### *Implementation Actions*

During this reporting period, CPUC ECMs observed implementation of dust control measures, including use of water trucks to control dust along access roads and workspaces (APM AIR-01) (See Photo 1—Attachment A) and maintaining posted speeds (15 miles per hour) on unpaved roads in accordance with

APM AIR-03 and MM BIO-24. Crews were observed sweeping sediment off paved roadways at points of ingress and egress at staging yards and at the intersection of dirt and paved roads (APM AIR-05, MM HYD-1).

Pole setting and overhead line work continued along TL 625B during this reporting period. In accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22, biological monitors were observed on site monitoring during initial ground disturbing activities, such as excavation for pole anchor installation. Excavated dirt spoils associated with excavations was placed on a visqueen sheet for erosion control in accordance with MM HYD-1 and APM HYD-09 (See Photo 2—Attachment A). Implementation of traffic control measures to support overhead line work and guard structure placement continued to be observed this reporting period. Traffic control measures such placement of signage and cones as well as flagpersons directing traffic along Sequan Truck Trail (specifically for the guard structures) were implemented in accordance with APM TRANS-02 and APM TRANS-05 (See Photo 3—Attachment A).

In accordance with MM BIO-28 and the Project's Nesting Bird Management Plan, approved avian biologists were observed monitoring active nests, and monitoring construction activity to ensure nesting buffer restrictions were adhered to (See Photo 4—Attachment A). Signage indicating active nest buffer conditions was observed posted and avoided by crews during inspections and allowable bird deterrent materials, such as netting, was observed on staged equipment in staging yards (MM BIO-28). Construction crews were observed working within delineated workspaces in accordance with MM BIO-1, and signs notifying workers of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for special status plants and butterfly host plant species outside the work limits (MM BIO-13, MM BIO-14, and MM BIO-16) were observed along the alignment.

Crews were observed removing and chipping vegetation and installing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (MM HYD-1, MM BIO-7, and APM HYD-09) best management practices (BMPs) at work areas along TL 6931 this reporting period. During clearing activities and during other activities along the project alignments, crews were observed carrying the required activity-specific fire tools and equipment (a 5 gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher) in accordance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (CFPPP) (MM FF-1). Chainsaws that required re-fueling during vegetation removal activities were observed being conducted over drip pans to ensure catchment of any material in accordance with MM PHS-2 (See Photo 5—Attachment A). Construction crews were observed implementing spill prevention BMPs including the use of drip pans beneath staged equipment, staging spill kits at work sites, and hazardous materials storage BMPs, including the use of secondary containment beneath hazardous materials at staging yards.

Archeological and Native American monitors were observed monitoring construction activities within the vicinity of previously recorded cultural resources and in areas identified as having a high potential to contain buried deposits in accordance with MM CUL-1, MM CUL-3, and APM CUL-04. Cultural ESA fencing was observed around the perimeter of workspaces and along the boundaries of access roads in accordance with Historic Properties Management Plan. During excavation activities associated with the

underground work at Crestwood substation, Native American monitors were observed present and monitoring (See Photo 6—Attachment A).

### ***Mitigation Measure Tracking***

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FEIR/EIS in the Decision for the Power Line Replacement Projects, as adopted by the CPUC on May 26, 2016 (Decision D.16-05-038) and the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP).

### ***Compliance Status***

CPUC third-party environmental monitors observed overall compliance with mitigation measures throughout the reporting period. SDG&E reported a Level 1 Minor Deviation that occurred on May 10, 2017. A crane operator backed a crane outside of the delineated work limits near Pole Z272865 (TL 625B). The crane tire tracks were documented as extending approximately two to three feet into the vegetation beyond the access road, however, the discovery was made by the SDG&E Environmental Inspector (EI) occurred post-demobilization of the equipment. The EI surveyed the area and reported that no burrows, sensitive wildlife or plant species, or cultural resources were impacted as a result of the Minor Deviation.

## **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS**

SDG&E began construction activities associated with NTP-1 on September 23, 2016. All project activities are scheduled to be complete by 2020.

### **TL 625B**

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; staged, assembled, and set poles; utilized helicopters in support of pole setting operations; installed grounding wire; grounded and spread wire; performed vegetation management at the Merrigan Staging Yard; removed distribution wire from old poles; performed hand-augering operations; conducted overhead work; and set up guard structures. The estimated completion date is July 2017. Approximately 40% complete.

### **TL 629E**

During this reporting period, construction crews maintained erosion control BMPs; grouted and backfilled trenches at the Crestwood Substation underground site; and dug trenches for installation of the riser pole. The estimated completion date is July 2017. Approximately 90% complete.

TL 6931

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; cleared vegetation within delineated workspaces; mobilized foundation drilling equipment; installed conduit sweeps; mobilized foundation drilling equipment; and staged poles. The estimated completion date is June 2017. Approximately 15% complete.

TL 682

Geotechnical bore drilling was performed during this reporting period. All bore locations on non-tribal lands were completed. The estimated completion date is June 2017.

## ATTACHMENT A Photos

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**Photo 1:** In accordance with APM AIR-02, water was applied to the unpaved access at the Sweetwater Staging Area (TL 625B) prior to crane demobilization.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 2:** During pole anchor hole digging at P275752 (TL 625B), a biological monitor was observed on site in accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22. Excavated dirt spoil was placed on a visqueen sheet for erosion control in accordance with MM HYD-1 and APM HYD-09.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 3:** During placement of guard structures between Z272846 to Z272847 (TL 625B), traffic control was staged along Sequan Truck Trail in accordance with APM TRANS-02 and APM TRANS-05.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 4:** An avian biologist was observed monitoring an active nest and updating nest status along the access road to Pole Z44258 (TL 6931) in accordance with the Avian Protection Plan/Nesting Bird Management Plan (MM BIO-28).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 5:** Crews were observed removing and chipping vegetation at Stringing Sites 16 & 17 near Pole Z44268 (TL 6931). In accordance with MM PHS-2, a drip pan was used during chainsaw fueling at Stringing Site 16.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 6:** During excavation for the underground utilities along TL 629E, Native American monitors were noted observing activities in accordance with MM CUL-1.

## ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

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NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	September 21, 2016, updated October 31, 2016	Construction activities associated with TL 625B and TL 629E	Y
CPUC-002	March 15, 2017	Construction activities associated with TL 6931	Y
CPUC-003	March 24, 2017	Geotechnical activities associated with TL 682	Y

## ATTACHMENT C

### Minor Project Refinement Request

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Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	10/5/16, Revised 10/18/16	Request for Modifications to the Anderson, Merrigan and Japatul Spur Staging Yards	Approved	10/21/16
002	2/21/16	Modifications to TL 625B and TL 629E	Approved, with Conditions	2/10/17
003	1/18/17	Use of Additional Water Source	Approved, with Conditions	4/4/17