

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting</i> <i>Program</i>
	Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Compliance Status Report: 021 July 9, 2017

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 June 26 through July 9, 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, and 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-02) and maintaining posted speeds (15 miles per hour) on unpaved roads in accordance with APM AIR-03 and MM BIO-24.

During inspections at the Japatul Spur Staging and Fly Yard (TL 625B), crews were observed using water trucks for dust abatement prior to helicopter flights supporting wire stringing activities along the project alignment in accordance with APM AIR-02 and the Project's Aviation Safety Plan (MM PHS-5) (See Photo 1—Attachment A). Helicopters were observed using designated landing areas during overhead work along TL 625B in accordance with MM PHS-5. During insulator installation along TL 6931, street sweepers were observed along Jewel Valley Road cleaning dirt track-out onto the public road in accordance with the project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) (MM HYD-1, MM BIO-7, and APM HYD-09) and APM AIR-05.

Crews continued to conduct overhead conductor work and remove poles on TL 625B and install /remove poles on TL 6931 during this reporting period. Crews began commencing construction activities along TL 682, including mobilizing equipment, delineating work spaces, clearing vegetation, and installing SWPPP BMPs. During overhead work and pole drilling/installation/removal activities, crews were observed staying within existing access roads and delineated work spaces (MM BIO-1). In accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22, biological monitors were observed monitoring initial ground-disturbing activities occurring along TL 682. In accordance with MM BIO-28 and the Project's Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP), approved avian biologists were observed surveying for nesting birds, monitoring active nests, and monitoring construction activities to ensure nesting buffer restrictions were adhered to along the right-of-ways. Posted signage indicating active nest buffer conditions was observed (See Photo 2—Attachment A). In areas where poles were in the process of being installed along TL 6931, open holes were observed covered in accordance with MM BIO-23. During work and use of an access road adjacent to arroyo toad habitat along TL 682 (near Z118180), an approved arroyo toad biologist was observed on site monitoring in accordance with operational protocols outlined in the SDG&E NCCP (APM BIO-3). The approved biologist informed the ECM that based on observations along the right-of-way, they would be making protection measure recommendations for implementation.

Archaeological monitors were observed spot-checking and monitoring construction activities within the vicinity of previously recorded cultural resources in accordance with MM CUL-1. Cultural ESA fencing was observed around the boundaries of access roads in accordance with the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). For TL 682, archaeological monitors were observed installing new cultural ESA fencing and signage prior to the start of work activities in accordance with the HPMP (See Photo 3—Attachment A).

During construction activities along the right-of-way, construction fire patrols were observed inspecting sites for compliance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (CFPPP) (MM FF-1). Crews were observed staging the required activity-specific fire tools and equipment within 50 feet of work areas (a 5 gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher) and fire boxes were observed present at remote sites in accordance with MM FF-1 and APM HAZ-01. During installation of SWPPP BMPs and vegetation clearing activities along TL 682, crews were also observed transporting additional water (100 gallon) pumps and hoses to these areas (See Photo 4—Attachment A).

SWPPP BMPs, such as fiber rolls/straw wattles, silt fencing, and rumble plates installed to prevent sediment track-out at staging yards were observed in overall good condition and kept free of debris. Drip pans and secondary containment were observed beneath portable restroom facilities as well as staged equipment and materials at staging and fly yards in accordance with the project SWPPP and MM PHS-2. Fiber rolls, rumble plates and opaque mesh screening along the fenceline (APM VIS-02) were observed at the new Nursery Staging and Fly Yard along TL 682 (See Photo 5—Attachment A). On June 30th, the CPUC ECM observed sediment buildup on fiber rolls along the western perimeter of the Z272875 site (TL 625B), and on gravel bags in the drainage channel that runs through the site. The CPUC ECM contacted the SDG&E LEI who, in turn, contacted an environmental monitor and crews responsible for installing and managing BMPs. Maintenance and repair to the BMPs and removal of sediment build-up occurred that same morning. The ECM continued to observe crews conducting approved road maintenance activities along the right-of-ways. Work did not occur in certain areas (such as stream crossings) clearly marked with ESA and other signage prohibiting grading-specific maintenance (See Photo 6—Attachment A).

Implementation of traffic control measures continued to be observed this reporting period. Traffic control measures, such as placement of signage and cones as well as flagpersons directing traffic along public roads, were implemented in accordance with APM TRANS-02.

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. No non-compliances were observed during this reporting period. SDG&E reported a Level 1 Minor Deviation in violation of MM BIO-1 that occurred on July 7th when a line truck operator drove off of the right-of-way on TL6931 (operator was turning the vehicle around) and impacted ruderal vegetation and two California buckwheat plants. No impacts to cultural or sensitive biological resources were reported.

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 Best Management Practices (BMPs); conducted overhead work including stringing conductor; and removed old poles. The estimated completion date is July 2017. Approximately 85% complete.

TL 629E

During this reporting period, construction crews maintained erosion control BMPs. The estimated completion date is July 2017. Approximately 90% complete.

TL 6931

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; drilled and grouted foundations; assembled and installed poles; removed old poles; and trenched and tested grounding rods. The estimated completion date is July 2017. Approximately 35% complete.

TL 682

During this reporting period, crews continued the development of Orchard Staging Yard and Nursery Staging and Fly Yard; began receiving materials at the Orchard Staging Yard; delineated workspaces; mobilized equipment; cleared work areas; and installed erosion control BMPs. The estimated completion date is November 2018. Approximately 2% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: In accordance with APM AIR-02 and the Aviation Safety Plan, water was observed being used for dust control at Japatul Spur Staging and Fly Yard during helicopter activities supporting wire stringing activities along the project alignment (TL 625B).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: In accordance with MM BIO-28 and the NBMP, a nesting bird buffer was delineated at pole Z44242 (TL 6931). Approved avian monitors were observed surveying for nesting birds and checking buffers and status of nests throughout the right-of-ways.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Along TL 682, an archeological monitor was observed installing ESA signage and fencing/rope in accordance with the HPMP (MM CUL-1).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Crews were observed installing SWPPP BMPs (MM HYD-1) and clearing vegetation along TL682 (Location Z118178, above). During vegetation clearing, crews brought required fire suppression equipment in accordance with the CFPPP (MM FF-1) and APM HAZ-01.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: SWPPP BMPs (MM HYD-1) such as fiber rolls and rumble plates were observed at the entrance of the Nursery Staging and Fly Yard (TL 682). Opaque screening material was also observed installed along the yard's perimeter fence in accordance with APM VIS-02.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: ESAs and markers indicating “No Grading, Water Crossing” were observed in place along TL 6931 (access road between Poles Z44245 to Z44246, above). “No grading” was also written on lath marking the water crossing.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

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
CPUC-004	June 27, 2017	Construction activities associated with TL 682 Phase I : Pole Z118102 to Warners Substation	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

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
004	3/20/17	Use of Orchard Staging Yard and Nursery Staging and Fly Yard	Approved, with Conditions	5/16/17
006	6/20/17	Drainage Structure Installation at Pole Z272867 (TL 625B)	Approved	7/6/17