

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting</i> <i>Program</i>
	Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Compliance Status Report: 088 February 9, 2020

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 January 27 through February 9, 2020.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor (ECM) conducted site observations in areas under active construction, which included Transmission Lines (TL) 629A, TL 625C, TL 6923, Circuit (C) 440, and C 79A, and the associated staging/fly 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. Applicable applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed for implementation in the field.

Implementation Actions

During this reporting period along TL 629A, CPUC ECMs observed construction crews conducting erosion control BMP maintenance, 12 kV overhead work, 69 kV wire stringing operations including sagging and dead-ending, old pole removal, backfill activities, and removal of materials from sites. Along TL 625C, CPUC ECMs observed construction crews setting up equipment at sites, installing grounds, spreading wire to create space for helicopter external load operations, mobilizing materials, removing old wooden pole tops, framing steel poles, setting pole bases and tops, and conducting 12 kV overhead work. Along TL 6923, CPUC ECMs observed construction crews removing vegetation, mobilizing equipment, setting up sites, installing grounds, drilling micropile foundations, perforating and drilling pole holes, conducting helicopter external load operations, placing rock in pole holes to reduce depth, transferring wire to create space for drilling operations, trenching for grounding rods and wire, and conducting 12 kV and 69 kV overhead work. Along C 440, CPUC ECMs observed construction crews removing vegetation, installing erosion control BMPs, trenching for underground distribution line, installing conduit and slurry, backfilling, patching trenches, excavating for bollards, and excavating pole and anchor excavations. Along C 79A, CPUC ECMs observed construction crews trenching for underground distribution line, breaking rock, excavating for vaults, and managing spoils stockpiles.

To prevent fugitive dust emissions during project activities, construction crews were observed applying water to prevent fugitive dust at staging and fly yards in preparation for helicopter external load operations, along unpaved access roads, and in work areas in accordance with APM AIR-02 (see Photo 1 – Attachment A). Haul trucks used for dirt export were observed utilizing load covers to prevent dust emissions in accordance with APM AIR-02, and construction personnel were observed maintaining posted speeds of 15 miles per hour on unpaved access roads in accordance with APM AIR-03 and MM BIO-24. Construction crews applied water during perforating and drilling and used cuttings containment boxes to prevent dust emissions in accordance with APM AIR-05.

Approved workspaces were observed delineated with staking and flagging, and work crews were observed adhering to work space limits and staying on approved access roads in accordance with MM BIO-1. In order to ensure crews were clear on approved access routes, CPUC ECMs observed “no project access” and “approved access” signs at the entrances to access roads (see Photo 2 – Attachment A). Workers were observed having completed the Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), as shown by project hard hat stickers in accordance with MM BIO-2. Biological monitors were observed conducting full-time monitoring of initial ground-disturbing activities such as vegetation removal in accordance with MM BIO-3, and monitoring all other construction activities to ensure compliance with mitigation measures, applicant proposed measures, and permit conditions in accordance with MM BIO-22. Crews were observed containing trash at work areas in accordance with MM BIO-26. During this reporting period, a CPUC ECM observed partially uncovered bollard excavations along C 440, which was documented as a Level 1 Minor Deviation (see Compliance Status section below). Biological Monitors were present to monitor bird nests during construction activities and ensure helicopter pilots respected helicopter bird nest buffers along TL 625C and TL 6923, in accordance with the Avian Protection Plan/Nesting Bird Management Plan (APP/NBMP) and MM BIO-28 (see Photo 3 – Attachment A).

CPUC ECMs observed cultural resource monitors, including archaeological and Native American monitors, monitoring construction activities that occurred within or adjacent to identified archaeological or cultural resource site boundaries in accordance with the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), MM CUL-1, MM CUL-3, and APM CUL-04 (see Photo 4 – Attachment A). Cultural ESAs were marked to prevent construction access to areas with cultural and/or historical resources in accordance with the HPMP, and work crews were observed respecting cultural ESA boundaries.

In accordance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (CFPPP) (MM FF-1), SDG&E and their construction contractors were observed communicating Fire Potential Index (FPI) and Project Activity Levels (PALs) to work crews at daily tailboard meetings, during which daily fire requirements and restrictions for work on private land and on National Forest System (NFS) land were discussed. All project-related vehicles and equipment were observed carrying the required set of fire tools (each set containing a 5-gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher). Construction crews were observed staging a set of fire tools within 50 feet of work activities as required by APM HAZ-04, and within 50 feet of truck-mounted stand-alone combustion engines and compressors in accordance with the CFPPP fire prevention matrices. Fire boxes were observed at staging yards and stocked with the required firefighting tools. Fire patrols were observed monitoring hot work (see Photo 5 – Attachment A) and construction activities, checking 5-gallon backpack pumps to ensure they were completely full of water, and inspecting fire extinguishers to ensure they were fully charged and serviced within the year.

To prevent leaks and spills from being discharged into the soil in accordance with the Spill Response and Notification Plan (SRNP) and MM PHS-2, construction crews were observed implementing spill prevention BMPs, such as using drip pans under staged equipment, beneath equipment during mechanical work and re-fueling, staging spill kits at work sites, using double walled fuel tanks or implementing secondary containment beneath staged fuel tanks, covering containment that may contain hazardous materials during rain events, and cleaning up spills and disposing of contaminated soils in the designated and properly labeled hazardous waste barrels.

To prevent impacts to hydrology and water quality, site-specific sediment and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) were observed being implemented and maintained along project alignments in accordance with the project Erosion Control Plan (ECP), SWPPP (MM HYD-01, MM BIO-7), and APM HYD-09. BMPs included the use of gravel bag check dams, gravel bag berms, perimeter fiber rolls or straw wattles, silt fence, plywood, and track out controls such as rattle plates and rock aprons at points of ingress and egress with staging yards. Dirt stockpiles were managed by being covered with plastic sheets and surrounded with fiber rolls or watered (if in use). A street sweeper was used to clean track-out on paved surfaces. Biological monitors and a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner were observed inspecting BMPs along rights-of-way and communicated with SDG&E construction contractors where repairs and maintenance were needed at tailboard meetings and throughout the day. Hydrological resources were flagged for avoidance, and work activities occurred outside of hydrological resources in accordance with APM HYD-06.

Construction sites were observed being kept clean and tidy, and visual screening fence was observed in place around staging yards to reduce visual impacts in accordance with APM VIS-02.

CPUC ECMs observed that Forest Service access gates were kept locked in accordance with MM-REC-2 (see Photo 2 – Attachment A). Traffic control measures were observed being implemented in accordance with APM TRANS-01–through APM TRANS-05 during this reporting period. CPUC ECMs observed traffic control crews helping to facilitate construction activities by directing one-way traffic along roads associated with TL 629A, TL 625C, and C 440 Phase 1. Motorists were notified of construction activities with signage, and guided around construction activities on or near public roadways with signs, cones, signals, and the use of a pilot car (see Photo 6 – Attachment A). Traffic was observed being temporarily stopped when helicopter external load operations crossed over public roadways, and construction and traffic control crews adhered to specific traffic control restrictions within a half mile of schools.

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 MMRP.

Compliance Status

Three Level 1 Minor Deviations occurred during this reporting period.

SDG&E reported that on February 4, a crew bladed a section of access road adjacent to the Kitchen Creek Staging Yard on TL6958 that was designated for cultural avoidance. Monitors from ASM Affiliates, Inc. and Grey Wolf Monitoring were dispatched to inspect the site after this work occurred; no impacts to cultural resources were observed. The incident was a violation of Avoidance Measure 3.1.3.1 of the HPMP and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation.

On February 7, a CPUC ECM observed that bollard excavations surrounding transformer boxes along Sheephead Mountain Road (C 440) did not appear to be completely covered. It seemed that the excavations had been improperly covered for more than a week. This incident violated MM BIO-23 and was documented as a Level 1 Minor Deviation. The CPUC ECM communicated the concern to the lead on-site Biological Monitor, who contacted construction project management, and the excavations were properly covered by the end of the day.

SDG&E reported that on February 8, a western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris*) was successfully removed from the direct-bury pole hole at Pole Z272963 on TL625C. The incident was a violation of MM BIO-23 and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. Though the hole in which the lizard was found was properly covered, monitors demonstrated the proper hole-covering technique for all crews.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS

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

TL 6957, TL 629C, TL 6958, and C 449

Completion pending final inspection and punch-list items. Approximately 99% complete.

TL 629A

During this reporting period, construction crews inspected and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; drilled for, tested, and capped micropile foundations; drilled for poles; assembled, framed, removed, and installed poles; poured concrete; installed grounding rods; conducted overhead and wire stringing operations; excavated for and intercepted conduit; removed spoils; conducted backfill operations; and installed, repaired, and replaced fencing. The estimated completion date is July 2020. Approximately 66% complete.

TL 625C

During this reporting period, construction crews inspected and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; capped, tested, and trimmed micropile foundations; assembled, installed, removed, and topped poles; poured concrete; conducted overhead and wire stringing operations; installed grounding rods; and removed spoils. The estimated completion date is May 2020. Approximately 74% complete.

TL 6923

During this reporting period, construction crews installed, inspected, and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; installed flagging and signage; removed vegetation; maintained access roads; drilled for and installed micropile foundations; drilled and excavated for poles and anchors; installed grounding rods; topped poles; poured concrete; and transferred and spread wire. The estimated completion date is October 2020. Approximately 20% complete.

C 440 Phase I

During this reporting period, construction crews installed, inspected, and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; removed and chipped vegetation; trimmed trees; excavated for pole holes and anchors; excavated for and installed conduit; slurried in the conduit package; mandrelled the installed conduit; installed bollards; installed mortar caps and set pads; and paved. The estimated completion date is August 2020. Approximately 73% complete.

C 79A

During this reporting period, construction crews installed, inspected and maintained sediment control BMPs; removed vegetation; excavated for and installed conduit, vaults, and ductbanks; and conducted compaction and backfill operations. The estimated completion date is May 2020. Approximately 55% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: A water truck operator was observed applying water to the work area at SS03 (TL 6923) to prepare for helicopter external load operations (transporting equipment) in accordance with APM AIR-02.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: The Forest Service access gate off Manzanita Way was kept closed and locked in accordance with MM REC-2. The approved access road was signed, in accordance with MM BIO-1, and the project speed limit was posted and adhered to by project personnel, in accordance with MM BIO-24.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: During pole top removal at Pole Z272939 (TL 625C), a Biological Monitor was present to monitor a nearby bird nest and ensure the buffer surrounding the nest was being respected by helicopter pilots in accordance with the APP, NBMP, and MM BIO-28.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Archaeological and Cultural Monitors were present to monitor bollard excavations at a box location along Alignment C (C 440) in accordance with the HPMP, APM CUL-04, and MM CUL-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: In accordance with the CFPPP, a Dedicated Fire Patrol was present during hot work near station 183+50 (C 440) and remained on site for one hour afterwards. The Fire Patrol was equipped with a full set of fire tools (5-gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher) and was also observed wetting down the surrounding area prior to hot work.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: A pilot vehicle was used to lead one-way traffic through a coned off work zone on Old Highway 80 (TL 629A) in accordance with APM TRANS-02 and the TCP.

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
CPUC-005	July 10, 2017	Geotechnical activities associated with C440 and C449	Y
CPUC-007	August 15, 2017	Construction activities associated with C78	Y
CPUC-008	November 8, 2017	Construction activities associated with C442	Y
CPUC-009	December 12, 2017	Geotechnical borings and seismic surveys along TL 629A and TL 625D	Y
CPUC-010	December 18, 2017	Construction activities associated with Phase 1 of C 440	Y
CPUC-011	January 24, 2018	Request to implement geotechnical investigation program, which includes geotechnical borings along TL629C	Y
CPUC-012	January 9, 2018	Reconstruct TL 6957 (formerly referred to as 625D)	Y
CPUC-013	April 5, 2018	Reconstruct TL 682 Phase III	Y
CPUC-014	June 26, 2018	Reconstruct/Relocate C157	Y
CPUC-015	August 30, 2018	Request to begin construction on C 449	Y
CPUC-016	July 10, 2018	Geotechnical Activities associated with TL 6923 and TL 625C	Y
CPUC-017	August 30, 2018	Request to begin construction on TL 629C	Y
CPUC-018	August 15, 2018	Request to implement a geotechnical investigation program, including geotechnical borings, along C 79A.	Y
CPUC-019	November 30, 2018	Reconstruction of TL 6958 (formerly referred to as TL629D)	Y
CPUC-020	April 19, 2019	Reconstruction of TL 629A	Y
CPUC-021	May 29, 2019	Reconstruction of C 79A	Y
CPUC-022	June 18, 2019	Reconstruction of TL 625C	Y
CPUC-023	July 11, 2019	Reconstruction/Removal of C440 Phase I Overhead	Y
CPUC-024	November 22, 2019	Reconstruction of TL 6923	Y
CPUC-025	February 4, 2020	Remove TL 626 from service and convert the northern section of TL 626 from 69 kV to 12 kV	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
005	5/9/17	Modifications to C78	Approved	8/15/17
006	6/20/17	Drainage Structure Installation at Pole Z272867 (TL 625B)	Approved	7/6/17
007	8/1/17	Love Valley Staging and Fly Yard	Approved	9/25/17
008	8/14/17	Mendenhall Fly Yard (TL 682)	Approved	9/1/17
009	10/10/17	Request for refinements for Phase I and Phase II of TL682	Approved	11/22/17
010	10/16/17	Addition of staging area and shift of pole P257776 (C78)	Approved	10/27/17
011	1/9/18	Modifications to TL 6957 (formerly TL 625D)	Approved	3/12/18
012	1/22/18	Request for an additional staging/fly yard (Creekside Ranch Staging and Fly Yard)	Approved	2/6/18
013	2/7/18	Request to move Pole P178040, per permittee request	Approved	2/9/18
014	2/15/18	Request to begin construction on Phase III of TL682. This request is combined with NTP #13.	Approved	4/5/18
015	2/22/18	Request to move a pole, per permittee request and additional pole work outside of the Rincon Substation.	Approved	3/14/18
016	3/29/18	Refinements to TL 629E	Approved	4/3/18
017	4/12/18	Refinements to C157	Approved	6/26/18
018	5/29/18	Refinements to C 449	Approved	8/30/18
019	7/2/18	Refinements to TL 629C	Approved	8/30/18
020	8/23/18	Request for road maintenance and temporary access and pole workspaces along C 157	Approved	8/29/18
021	8/23/18	Intersect Pole on TL 682	Approved	9/24/18
022	10/16/18	Refinements to TL 6958 (formerly TL 629D)	Approved	11/30/18
023	11/15/18	Expansion of the Buckman Springs Fly Yard and addition of the Old Buckman Springs Staging Yard and Rodriguez Staging Yard	Approved, with Conditions	12/4/18
024	11/26/18	Request to use the Pacific Crest Trail for access along C 449 and TL 629C	Approved	1/3/19
025	12/11/18	Bartlett Staging Yard	Approved	1/22/19
026	2/22/19	Refinements to TL 629A	Approved	4/19/19
027	3/1/19, Revised 3/8/19	Expansion of the Cameron Staging Yard	Approved	3/12/19
028	3/7/19	Underground workspaces at three existing pole locations on C 449	Approved	3/12/19

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

029	3/28/19	Refinements to C79A	Approved	5/29/19
030	3/29/19	Modify Route to Pole P45476 (C449)	Approved	4/05/19
031	4/26/19	Refinements to TL 625C	Approved	6/18/19
032	5/6/19	Refinements to C 440 Phase I Overhead	Approved	7/11/19
033	5/17/19	Convert Staging areas 2 and 2A from staging to staging and fly yards (C440)	Approved	6/04/19
034	5/17/19	Replace Stevens Ranch Staging Yard Relocation	Approved	5/29/19
035	6/06/19	Refinements to TL 629A Components	Approved	6/18/19
036	6/28/19	Addition of Paso Picacho Staging Yard	Approved	7/17/19
037	6/28/19	Expansion of the Merrigan Staging Yard	Approved	7/03/19
038	7/26/19	Refinements to TL 629A	Approved	8/14/19
039	9/5/19	Refinements to TL 625C	Approved	9/19/19
040	9/12/19	Addition of Underground Alignment to C440	Approved	10/10/19
041	10/2/19	Refinements to TL 6923	Approved	11/22/19
042	10/29/19	Addition of temporary access/entry/turnaround areas, temporary pole work areas, and footpaths at Poles Z774861, Z774862, Z774863, and Z774864	Approved	12/9/19
043	12/27/19	Replacement pole location adjustment and addition of temporary workspace at Pole Z272939	Approved	1/9/20