

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting</i> Program
	Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Compliance Status Report: 096 May 31, 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 May 18 through May 31, 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) 6923, TL 626 Conversion North (Circuit 222), TL 626 RFS, TL 626 Conversion South (C 79B), Circuit (C) 440, 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 6923, CPUC ECMs observed crews conducting overhead work; using helicopter external load operations to remove the old wooden poles and set poles, wire-stringing activities, and digging a pole hole. Along TL 626 Conversion North (C 222), CPUC ECMs observed crews digging a pole hole, backfilling, and exporting dirt spoil; slurring-in foundations; excavating for anchor holes; trenching for ground rod installation; using helicopter external load operations to transport equipment, remove old wooden poles, and set new steel poles; and conducting overhead work.. Along TL 626 RFS, CPUC ECMs observed crews removing old wooden poles and conducting overhead work in preparation for wire wreckout. Along TL 626 Conversion South (C 79B) CPUC ECMs observed crews removing vegetation and installing erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Along C 79A, CPUC ECMs observed crews conducting hand hole patch work and cleaning up excess rock along the top portion of the alignment that had been removed from the ground during trenching. Along C 440 Phase I, CPUC ECMs observed crews pulling wire at vault sites.

To prevent fugitive dust emissions during project activities, crews were observed applying water to prevent fugitive dust along unpaved access roads and in work areas in accordance with APM AIR-02 and during helicopter operations in accordance with the Aviation Safety Plan (ASP; MM PHS-5) (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 were observed applying water during drilling and using 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 (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. In accordance with MM BIO-13, MM BIO-14, and MM BIO-16, Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) signs and flagging were observed installed around areas with special-status species, and ESAs were observed being avoided by crews (see Photo 2 – Attachment A). Excavations were observed covered to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-23, and crews were observed containing trash at work areas in accordance with MM BIO-26 (see Photo 4 – Attachment A). Avian biologists were observed conducting nesting bird surveys and were present to monitor bird nests during construction activities in accordance with the Avian Protection Plan/Nesting Bird Management Plan (APP/NBMP) and MM BIO-28.

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. 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 (see Photo 3 – Attachment A).

In accordance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (CFPPP) (MM FF-1), San Diego Gas & Electric (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 other tools as required by the CFPPP (see Photo 6– Attachment A). Fire boxes were observed at staging yards and stocked with the required firefighting tools.

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 and beneath equipment during mechanical work and refueling, 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 BMPs were observed being implemented and maintained along project alignments in accordance with the project Erosion Control Plan (ECP), Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP; MM HYD-01 and MM BIO-7), and APM HYD-09 (see Photos 4 and 5 – Attachment A). Other BMPs in the SWPPP, such as hydromulch application, concrete waste containment, and street sweeping, were also observed along the alignments. Hydrological resources were flagged for avoidance, and work activities occurred outside of hydrological resources in accordance with APM HYD-06.

Traffic control measures were observed being implemented in accordance with APM TRANS-01 through APM TRANS-05 during this reporting period (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 MMRP.

Compliance Status

Five Level 1 Minor Deviations occurred during this reporting period.

SDG&E reported that on May 21, crews on TL 6923 worked beyond the allowable construction hours (i.e., 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) without prior authorization. The crews were installing direct-bury poles at Z972837 and Z972858 with the aid of a concrete-pumping truck. Per SDG&E, truck malfunctions prolonged the operation, extending the work past the allowable construction hours. Crews departed at 7:45 p.m. The incident was a violation of MM NOI-4 and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. At the tailboard meeting, SDG&E communicated the importance of proper planning to ensure all work is completed during the allowable construction hours.

SDG&E reported that on May 26, crews discovered two coast patch-nosed snakes (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife species of special concern, in the pole hole at P259363 on TL 626 Conversion North. The snakes were removed from the hole and relocated. The pole hole was observed to be covered throughout the previous week; however, the crews had difficulty creating an adequate seal due to the uneven and rocky terrain surrounding the hole. The incident was a violation of MM BIO-23 and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. Per SDG&E, crews were reminded at the tailboard meeting to seal all excavations.

SDG&E reported that on May 29, crews working at Z972845 on TL 6923 staged equipment outside of the work area. The incident was a violation of MM BIO-1 and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. Per SDG&E, crews were reminded at the tailboard meeting of the importance of adhering to approved work limits was stressed.

The CPUC ECM reported that on May 26, equipment was staged outside of the work areas within cultural ESAs on TL 6923. An equipment truck was also observed backing up off the approved access road within an ESA near these poles. The incident was a violation of MM BIO-1 and the conditions of the HPMP Section 3.1.3.4 "Avoidance Measures for Resources with ESAs," and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. Per SDG&E, monitors from ASM Affiliates Inc. and Blackhawk Environmental determined that there was no impact to cultural resources. Additional equipment was also staged outside of the approved work areas on this day. Per SDG&E, crews were reminded at the tailboard meeting of the importance of adhering to approved work limits.

SDG&E reported that on May 30, a crew placed the outriggers of its equipment truck outside of the approved work limits and within a cultural ESA on TL 6923. The archaeological monitor on site requested that the crew move the outriggers inside the approved work limits; the crew complied. The archaeologist on site confirmed that no impacts occurred to any resources. The incident was a violation of MM BIO-1 and the conditions of the HPMP, and resulted in a Level 1 Minor Deviation. Per SDG&E, crews were reminded at the tailboard meeting of the importance of adhering to approved work limits.

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 682, TL 6957, TL 629C, TL 625C, 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; poured concrete; excavated for and installed poles; and conducted overhead operations. The estimated completion date is August 2020. Approximately 77% complete.

TL 6923

During this reporting period, construction crews inspected and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; topped and installed poles; graded; maintained access roads; excavated for, topped, removed, and installed poles; dewatered; poured concrete; and conducted overhead and wire-stringing operations. The estimated completion date is August 2020. Approximately 72% complete.

TL 626 Conversion North (C 222)

During this reporting period, construction crews installed, inspected, and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; drilled and excavated for, assembled, topped, removed, and installed poles; excavated for and installed anchors and grounding rods; installed rock base; poured concrete; and conducted backfill and compaction operations; conducted overhead operations. The estimated completion date is September 2020. Approximately 19% complete.

TL 626 RFS

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs, and conducted overhead operations. The estimated completion date is December 2020. Approximately 2% complete.

TL 626 Conversion South (C 79B)

During this reporting period, construction crews installed sediment and erosion control BMPs, installed signage and staking; and removed and chipped vegetation. The estimated completion date is December 2020. Approximately 2% complete.

C 440 Phase I

During this reporting period, construction crews inspected and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs, spliced cable, conducted handhold work, and conducted underground cable-pulling operations. The estimated completion date is August 2020. Approximately 92% complete.

C 79A

During this reporting period, construction crews inspected and maintained sediment and erosion control BMPs; excavated for, installed, and grouted vaults; excavated for, installed, and mandrelled conduit; set forms and poured concrete; paved; and conducted backfill and compaction operations. The estimated completion date is June 2020. Approximately 92% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: A crew was observed using helicopter external load operations to pick both sections of Z972820 from Sol Valley Staging Yard South (TL 6923). A water tender was observed applying water to the surface surrounding the pole immediately prior to and in between pick up to minimize dust emissions from helicopter rotor wash in accordance with APM AIR-02 and APM AIR-05.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: At P259700 (TL 626 Conversion South (C 79B)), sensitive plant species (above, *Mimulus clevelandii*), were observed flagged for avoidance in accordance with MM BIO-13.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: On the gate to access sites from P258579 (TL 626 Conversion South (C 79B)) to the north, an ESA sign listing cultural sites for which monitors are required was posted (APM CUL-04), and an approved access sign was posted in accordance with MM BIO-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: The pole hole and spoils stockpile at P259357 (TL 626 Conversion North (C 222)) were observed to be securely covered in accordance with MM BIO-23, and the ECP/SWPPP (MM HYD-1 and MM BIO-7).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: A crew was observed installing silt fence at P259353 (TL 626 Conversion North (C 222)) in accordance with the ECP and SWPPP (MM HYD-1 and MM BIO-7). A full set of fire tools was observed on site in accordance with the CFPPP (MM FF-1).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: During helicopter external loads crossing Eagle Peak Road (TL 626 Conversion North (C 222)), traffic control measures were observed being implemented in accordance with the Traffic Control Plan (APM TRANS-05) and the ASP (MM PHS-5).

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 C79A	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
CPUC-026	April 23, 2020	Convert the southern portion of TL 626 from a 69 kV transmission line to 12 kV distribution line from Johnson Creek (Pole P258599) to the Descanso 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
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
044	2/10/20	Refinements to TL 626 Conversion South	Approved	4/23/20
045	2/21/20	Temporary shoo-fly along TL629A	Approved	3/9/20
046	3/6/20	Additional anchor locations and access road modifications along C 440 Phase I.	Approved	3/26/20