

# California Public Utilities Commission Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program

East County (ECO) Substation Project

Compliance Status Report: 044

**December 7, 2014** 

# **SUMMARY**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation Project. 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/EIS to mitigate or avoid significant 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. This compliance status report covers construction activities from November 24 through December 7, 2014.

# MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

# Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations along the right-of-way associated with the 138 kV Underground Transmission Line, 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line, East County Substation and Boulevard Substation Rebuild. Areas of active and inactive construction within the project limits were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project's MMCRP. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

# **Implementation Actions**

# 138 kV Underground Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of installing waterbars and dissipaters, restoration activities, backfilling around a vault near the Carrizo Creek Bridge, installation of the duct bank on either side of the Carrizo Creek Bridge, cable splicing, cable termination, backfilling at low-water crossings, and cable testing.

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A fire patrol was observed on-site, and fire tools were being staged in accordance with MM-FF-1. Work limits were observed being clearly delineated with flagging in accordance with MM-BIO-1A and a biological monitor was present per MM-BIO-1C. Sediment control BMP's, including straw wattles and gravel bag berms, were observed in good condition along the perimeter of the work limits (MM-HYD-1).

Traffic safety measures included the use of signage, a pilot car, and traffic control flaggers to direct one-way traffic through the work area in accordance with MM-TRA-1 (see Attachment A – Photo 1).

# 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of maintenance and repair of the erosion and sediment control devices throughout all pad sites, pulling, sagging, and clipping in of conductor, installation of spacers and the installation of drains, water dissipaters, and waterbars.

A biological monitor was present at the time of the site visits in accordance with MM-BIO-1C. Fire safety tools were also observed being staged on-site and a fire patrol/inspector was present on-site in accordance with MM-FF-1.

Temporary impact areas are in the process of being decompacted and seeded in accordance with MM-BIO-1d and the Habitat Restoration Plan (see Attachment A – Photos 2 and 3). Erosion control BMP's were observed being maintained at the pad sites and along the perimeter of temporary staged spoil piles in accordance with MM-HYD-1 (see Attachment A – Photo 4). Temporary impact areas along access roads and adjacent to pad sites were observed to have been hydro-seeded from SP-42 to SP-47. A crew was also observed installing ground rods for the protective fence at SP-42.

# **East County Substation**

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of punch list items and implementation of the Landscaping Plan (ECO-AES-1). All activities were observed being completed within the approved work limits and no issues/concerns were observed.

### **Boulevard Substation Rebuild**

Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of installation of relay panels and equipment within the control shelter and electrical testing within the substation.

In accordance with MM-VIS-3A, temporary fences along the perimeter of the Boulevard Substation Rebuild were observed lined with screening material to reduce visibility of construction activities for motorists passing along Old Highway 80 (see Photo 5 – Attachment A).

Sediment control BMP's (gravel bags) were observed being removed by a construction crew. A biological monitor was present on-site per MM-BIO-1C and was observed inspecting equipment for



cleanliness in accordance with the Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Plan (MM-BIO-3A). Drip pans were observed beneath staged generators and portable facilities in accordance with MM-HAZ-1a. The site was also observed to be free of trash and debris in accordance with MM-BIO-7d.

Fire patrols were observed on-site to ensure construction equipment and vehicles had the required fire safety equipment and provided ongoing fire patrols in accordance with MM-FF-1 (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/FEIS for the ECO Substation Project, as adopted by the CPUC on April 19, 2012 (Decision 12-04-022).

# **Compliance**

No non-compliances or deviations occurred during this reporting period.

# **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS**

#### **Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site**

Construction at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild is 96% complete.

### ECO Substation Site Construction

Construction at ECO Substation is 97% complete.

### 138 kV Underground Construction

Construction crews have completed installation of all 39 vaults, 100% of cable has been installed, and 100% of trenches have been excavated and backfilled.

# 138 kV Overhead Construction

53 of 53 steel pole pads/spur roads and foundations have been completed and 53 of 53 poles have been erected. 93% of the wire has been installed.

# **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

*ECO Substation 500 kV and 230/138 kV Yards* – SDG&E began construction activities in March 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.



138 kV Underground Transmission Line – SDG&E began construction activities in October 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in December 2014.

138 kV Overhead Transmission Line – SDG&E began construction activities in November 2013 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.

**Boulevard Substation Rebuild** – SDG&E began construction in December 2012 and is anticipated to complete construction in November 2014.



# ATTACHMENT A Photos



**Photo 1:** Traffic control measures consisting of signage was observed being implemented along Old Highway 80 in accordance with MM-TRA-1.



**Photo 2:** Restoration activities were observed being completed at the Lake Domingo Construction Yard during this reporting period. Crews were observed decompacting soils prior to applying a seed mix in accordance with MM-BIO-1D and the Habitat Restoration Plan.

# **ATTACHMENT A (Continued)**



**Photo 3:** In accordance with MM-BIO-1D and the Habitat Restoration Plan, temporary work areas are stabilized and a seed mix will be applied in the near future. Monitoring to meet the success criteria is required to be completed as described in Section 6.0 of the Habitat Restoration Plan.



**Photo 4:** In accordance with MM-HYD-1, straw wattles are placed along the perimeter of spoil piles staged onsite to minimize the potential for erosion.

# **ATTACHMENT A (Continued)**



**Photo 5**: In accordance with MM-VIS-3A, temporary fences along the perimeter of the Boulevard Substation Rebuild are lined with screening material to reduce visibility of construction activities for motorists passing along Old Highway 80.



**Photo 6:** Fire patrols were observed to be present during construction activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild in accordance with MM-FF-1.

# **ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed**

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
BLM-001	February 11, 2013	A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on lands administered by the BLM	Υ
CPU -001	November 30, 2012	Abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site	Y
CPUC-002	February 1, 2013	Construction of a new substation (a 500 kV yard and a 230/138 kV yard)	Y
CPUC-003	February 1, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-004	March 4, 2013	Geotechnical Activities	Y
CPUC-005	May 21, 2013	Construction Yards	Y
CPUC-006	July 2, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line along Southern Access Road	Y
CPUC-007	July 30, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line within Old Highway 80 and Carrizo Gorge Road	Y
CPUC-008	August 2, 2013	Construction activities associated with the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Y
CPUC-009	September 25, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Boulevard Substation to 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-010	October 17, 2013	138 kV Underground Transmission Line from Carrizo Gorge Road to Steel Pole 91	Y
CPUC-011	November 5, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Y
CPUC-012	November 19, 2013	Fault Investigations at the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) Loop-In	Y
CPUC-013	December 4, 2013	138 kV Overhead Transmission Line Steel Pole- 105B and Steel Pole- 108A	Y
CPUC-014	March 18, 2014	Construction of Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in to connect the existing 500 kV SWPL transmission line to the ECO Substation site	Y
CPUC-015	November 3, 2014	Realignment of the 69 Kilovolt (kV) Distribution Line to the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site	Y



# ATTACHMENT C Minor Project Refinement Requests

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	January 25, 2013	Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	February 7, 2013
002	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Domingo Lake and Jewel Valley Construction Yards	Approved	May 20, 2013
003	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard	Approved	May 20, 2013
004	May 17, 2013	Adjustments to the Southern Access Road and 138 kV Overhead and Underground Transmission Line	Approved	June 26, 2013
005	June 27, 2013	Adjustments to the Boulevard Substation Rebuild	Approved	July 26, 2013
006	July 30, 2013	Adjustments to the 138 kV Overhead Transmission Line	Approved	September 23, 2013
007	August 16, 2013	Relocation of Temporary Retention Basin	Approved	August 22, 2013
800	August 20, 2013	Construction Water Use	Approved	October 1, 2013
009	November 22, 2013	Additional Temporary Work Space for Fence Replacement	Approved	November 26, 2013
010	December 19, 2013	Access Road and Work Space Refinements at Steel Pole 63 & 64	Approved	January 14, 2014
011	January 16, 2014	Temporary Meeting Location for Material & Equipment	Approved	January 22, 2014
012	February 27, 2014	Work Space Refinements to the Southwest Powerlink	Approved	March 11, 2014
013	April 4, 2014	Additional Temporary Work Space at 138kV Overhead Transmission Line	Approved	April 17, 2014