

	<p>California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></p>
	<p>Tie Line (TL) 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project</p>
	<p>Compliance Status Report: 006 May 11, 2014</p>

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the TL 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement 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 MND 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. This compliance status report covers construction activities from April 28 through May 11, 2014.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas of active construction. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

Staging Yards

Delivery and staging of steel poles and construction material continued at the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Staging Yards during this reporting period (see Photo 1 – Attachment A).

Micropile Drill Sites

At micropile drill sites, construction crews were observed setting up and demobilizing equipment at pole locations, drilling micropile foundation holes, installing rebar (see Photo 2 – Attachment A), grouting, testing and trimming at structures, and capping.

Conventional Drill Sites

At conventional drill sites, construction crews were observed machine auguring and hand digging pole holes (see Photo 3 – Attachment A); spreading wire and preparing to set steel poles; setting steel poles and transferring wire to newly erected steel poles (see Photo 4 – Attachment A).

Access Roads, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Other Activities

Construction crews were observed trimming vegetation along access roads, pole replacement work sites, stringing sites (see Photo 5 – Attachment A), and helicopter landing zones; installing and/or maintaining sediment control BMPs (i.e. silt fencing, fiber rolls/straw wattles, stockpile management, etc.) at pole replacement work sites; and refreshing access roads.

Mitigation Implementation

During wood pole replacement activities, CPUC third-party monitors observed biological monitors working with construction crews to minimize or prevent impacts to biological resources in accordance with mitigation measure (MM) BIO-2. In accordance with MM-BIO-4, CPUC approved biologists were observed conducting pre-construction nesting bird surveys along access roads, and at pole replacement work sites, stringing sites, and helicopter landing zones (see Photo 6 – Attachment A). Biological monitors marked nest locations with green-painted wooden stakes, to mark buffer areas for avoidance by construction personnel (as shown during hand-digging activities in Photo 3 – Attachment A).

In order to prevent wildlife entrapment (MM BIO-3), construction materials and staged steel poles in staging yards were covered with nets to prevent nesting activity in the crevices provided (see Photo 1— Attachment A). Additionally, drilled micropiles were covered with visqueen and drilled pole holes were covered with plywood to prevent wildlife entrapment (see Photo 7 – Attachment A). Measures to prevent attracting wildlife near the project area were observed employed, such as stationed trash bags in construction areas to prevent littering and covered waste containment units at the laydown yards (Applicant Proposed Measure (APM) BIO-1).

Crews were observed implementing measures identified in the Project Fire Plan (APM HAZ-2) in order to minimize fire risk during project construction. Construction crews were observed carrying required fire tools (i.e. backpack pump, fire extinguisher, shovel, and Pulaski) during activities, and fire extinguishers were observed staged next to or mounted on internal combustion engines. Fire patrols were observed along the project alignment overseeing fire safety measures being implemented, and standing-by to aid in extinguishing possible fire starts. Water tenders were observed within 2 minutes travel time of construction activities where equipment could become energized, and were utilized to wet access roads (see Photo 8 – Attachment A).

A Red Flag Warning was issued on Sunday, May 11 due to high temperatures, low humidity and high winds (Santa Ana Conditions) and was expected to last through Thursday May 15. All construction activities were reported to be suspended along the alignment with the exception of work performed at the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Staging Yards. Nesting bird surveys were proposed for the following week along Creelman Lane (Structure Nos. P2 through P20) with all work areas to be biologically cleared prior to reinitiating project activities along the alignment.

In accordance with the Project SWPPP (APM HYD-1), sediment control BMPs were observed being implemented to minimize or prevent impacts to water quality. The CPUC third party environmental monitor inspected the installation locations and condition of sediment control BMPs such as silt fencing and straw wattles (see Photo 2 – Attachment A) and were found in good condition. Stockpile management BMPs (i.e. covering dirt spoil stockpiles with visqueen and surrounding the stockpile with silt fencing/straw wattles) were also inspected and found in good condition (see Photo 7 – Attachment A). Public roads were inspected for dirt track-out from construction related traffic, and tracking control BMPs (i.e. rattle plates and rock aprons) were observed functioning appropriately. To prevent leaks and/or spills from being discharged into the soil, visqueen was observed being placed beneath staged equipment, generators, and drill rigs in accordance with MM HAZ-2. In addition, spill kits were observed accessible to construction crews to use in a potential spill cleanup effort. To prevent or limit impacts to jurisdictional waterways, an aquatic resource monitor was observed spot checking construction activity taking place near adjacent jurisdictional waterways in accordance with MM HYD-2 and the 401 Permit Certification.

During work along Creelman Lane, including pole hole digging and wire spreading/pole setting, construction crews utilized signage, cones, and flaggers to direct traffic around construction areas safely in accordance with APM-TRA-1 (see Photo 2 – Attachment A). Noise meters and barriers were erected along Creelman Lane near noise-sensitive receptors in order to ensure noise levels did not exceed permissible limits according to mitigation (MM NOI-2) and that noise caused by hand digging was reduced.

Environmentally sensitive areas were observed delineated in the field and roped off for construction personnel avoidance (see Photo 8 – Attachment A). In accordance with APM-CUL-3, archeological monitors were observed monitoring construction activities that occurred near the sensitive resources and crews were observed respecting avoidance buffers.

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 MND for the Tie-Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project, as adopted by the CPUC on February 5, 2014 (Decision D.14-02-04).

Compliance Status

CPUC third-party monitors observed overall compliance with mitigation measures throughout the reporting period. Crews were observed complying with requirements to stay within approved project work areas and to travel along approved project access roads. Wooden stakes were used to delineate the work limits of stringing sites and helicopter landing zones, while posts were used to delineate project access roads and “No Project Access” signage was observed along existing roads that could be mistaken for approved project access roads.

No non-compliances, project incidents, or minor deviations occurred during the reporting period.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Staging Yards

Staging Yards are approximately 100 percent complete.

Wood Pole Replacement

Approximately 40 percent of micro-pile foundations drilling and 34 percent grouting have been completed.

Capping is 30 percent complete and testing is 35 percent complete.

Approximately 54 percent of hole excavations (for directly embedded poles) have been completed.

Power line pole construction (setting bases) is 25 percent complete.

Temporary Pole Installation is 50 percent complete.

Best Management Practices

Approximately 80 percent of SWPPP BMPs have been installed along the project right-of-way.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Tie-Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project (CPUC NTP No. 001) – SDG&E began clearing activities at the project site on February 19, 2014. All project activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: Steel poles were delivered and staged at the Santa Ysabel staging yard. Openings to the poles were covered with nets to prevent wildlife entrapment (MM BIO-3) or prevent bird nesting activities in crevices.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: Micropile construction crews were observed drilling, setting bar (pictured), and grouting during this reporting period. Straw wattle BMPs were installed around project activities at this location in accordance with the project SWPPP.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Noise meters and sound barriers were installed during hand digging activities at Location 8 along Creelman Lane in order to ensure that noise limits did not exceed mitigation thresholds and noise was reduced near sensitive receptors (MM NOI-2). Green flagging (bottom right) was installed subsequent to nesting bird surveys in order to ensure crews adhered to buffer requirements around these areas (MM BIO-4).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Crews worked to transfer wire onto newly erected steel poles along Creelman Lane. Signage, cones, and traffic personnel were mobilized to direct traffic past pole replacement construction sites in accordance with APM TRA-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Stringing site (pictured) and helicopter landing zone work limits were delineated with wooden stakes in accordance with APM BIO-1 and vegetation trimming occurred only within the delineated work limits.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: Biological monitors were observed conducting nesting bird surveys prior to vegetation trimming activities at stringing sites and helicopter landing zones (pictured) in accordance with MMBIO-4.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 7: Previously drilled pole holes were covered to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-3. Stockpiles were observed covered with visqueen and silt fencing used for sediment control was found installed and in good condition in accordance with the Project SWPPP (APM-HYD-1).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 8: Environmentally sensitive areas were observed delineated in the field and roped off for construction personnel avoidance. In accordance with APM CUL-3, archeological monitors were observed monitoring construction activities that occurred near the sensitive resources and crews were observed respecting avoidance buffers.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	February 14, 2014	Construction of the Tie Line 637 Wood-to-Steel Pole Replacement Project	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	4/9/14	Structure P5- Change from Micro Pile to Direct Bury	Approved	4/10/14
002	4/18/14	Overland Travel	Approved	4/23/14
003	4/24/14	Modification to Stringing Site No. 5	Approved	4/29/14
004	4/30/14	Request for Additional Turnaround Areas	Approved	5/06/14
005	5/02/14	Modification to Stringing Site No. 4	Approved	5/06/14
006	5/02/14	Request for Additional Staging Areas	Approved	5/07/14