

	<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: 007 May 25, 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 May 12 through May 25, 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.

Micropile Drill Sites

At micropile drill sites, construction crews were observed drilling and performing strength tests of constructed piles (see Attachment A – Photo 1).

Conventional Drill Sites

At conventional drill sites, construction crews were observed machine auguring and air track drilling pole holes (see Attachment A – Photo 2).

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

Construction crews were observed setting steel poles, sagging and clipping-in conductor wire (see Attachment A – Photo 3 and Photo 4), and installing sediment control BMPs such as straw wattles.

Mitigation Implementation

Wood Pole Replacement

During wood pole replacement activities, CPUC third-party monitors observed biological monitors inspecting work locations and surveying for nesting birds and other biological resources along the alignment in accordance with mitigation measure (MM) BIO-2 and MM BIO-4 (see Attachment A – Photo 5). Biological monitors were observed monitoring active bird nests near construction sites, and communicating with construction crews on how to minimize potential disturbance to nests. In accordance with applicant proposed measure (APM) BIO-1, the disturbance limits of stringing sites were delineated, project personnel were observed using only approved project access roads, and construction crews utilized trash receptacles to prevent littering. In accordance with MM BIO-3, previously drilled pole holes were covered to prevent the potential entrapment of wildlife (see Attachment A – Photo 6).

In accordance with APM CUL-3, an archeological monitor was observed monitoring construction work near an adjacent environmentally sensitive area (ESA). Metal T-posts were used to delineate the ESA to ensure avoidance by construction personnel in accordance with MM CUL-1 (see Attachment A – Photo 2).

Fire risk was observed being minimized during project construction through the implementation of measures in the Project Fire Plan and APM HAZ-2. Construction crews were observed carrying the required fire tools (i.e. fire extinguisher, backpack pump, shovel, and/or Pulaski) to work locations (see Attachment A – Photo 2), and staging fire extinguishers next to internal combustion engines located on-site. During wire-related activities in which construction crews worked with energized overhead transmission lines, a water tender was staged within the required two minute travel time from work locations (see Attachment A – Photo 3). In addition, fire patrols were observed monitoring work activity along the project alignment and the implementation of measures in the Project Fire Plan (APM-HAZ-2).

During this reporting period, a work stoppage occurred due to a Red Flag Warning, which was issued on Sunday, May 11th due to high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds (Santa Ana Conditions). The Red Flag Warning lasted through Thursday May 15th. SDG&E reported suspension of construction work along the alignment in accordance with the Project Fire Plan and APM HAZ-2 during the Red Flag Warning. Work continued at the Warnock and Santa Ysabel Staging Yards, including pole and wire preparations, perimeter fencing maintenance, and gate repairs at the entrance to the Santa Ysabel Staging Yard. Nesting bird surveys were also reported to be conducted by project biologists during the Red Flag Warning; however, nesting bird surveys were conducted on a “walk-in only” basis, meaning vehicular use was not allowed to access locations along the alignment, with the exception of sites located along Creelman Lane.

In accordance with the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (a requirement of APM HYD-1), SDG&E was observed implementing sediment control BMPs to reduce potential impacts to water quality. Construction crews were observed installing and maintaining sediment controls such as straw wattles and silt fencing at work locations, and covering dirt spoil piles with visqueen to prevent erosion (see Attachment A – Photo 6). During the reporting period, a construction crew encountered groundwater while drilling micropiles. The groundwater and associated silt expelled during drilling was contained with the use of silt fencing, and transferred into visqueen-lined containment bins that were emptied into a retention basin located in the Santa Ysabel Staging Yard (see Attachment A – Photo 7). To prevent potential leaks and spills from being discharged into the soil in accordance with MM HAZ-2, construction crews were observed carrying spill cleanup kits, and using visqueen beneath staged equipment and below concrete pouring operations. In accordance with MM HYD-2 and the 401 Permit Certification, an aquatic resource monitor was observed spot checking work activities occurring near adjacent jurisdictional drainages, and surveying proposed overland access routes for jurisdictional features (see Attachment A – Photo 8).

To prevent potential adverse effects to air quality, water was applied in drill holes during drilling operations, and along project access roads for dust suppression in accordance with APM BIO-1.

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. All observations that had potential to become an area of concern if left uncorrected were addressed on-site. On May 20, the CPUC third-party monitor notified the on-site biological monitor of a small amount of concrete waste observed along the access road to P21, and also notified the

Project SWPPP Inspector of down silt fencing in need of repair at P21. These areas were not observed to be an issue the following monitoring day.

One Level 1 Minor Deviation was reported on May 16, 2014: construction activities (pole digging of P133 and P134) without a prior nesting bird survey. SDG&E reported that an avian biologist immediately surveyed both pole locations and determined that no active bird nests were impacted as a result of the minor deviation. No active or inactive nests were reported to be found within 100 feet of P133 and P134. Increased communication between construction and the environmental teams will be implemented to ensure this issue does not occur in the future.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Staging Yards

Staging Yards are approximately 100 percent complete.

Wood Pole Replacement

Approximately 48 percent of micro-pile foundations drilling and 46 percent grouting have been completed.

Micropile capping is 35 percent complete and testing is 45 percent complete.

Approximately 95 percent of hole excavations (for directly embedded poles) have been completed.

Power line pole construction (setting bases) is 50 percent complete.

Temporary Pole Installation is 43 percent complete.

Wire pulling and tensioning is 12 percent complete.

Sagging of conductor lines is 12 percent complete.

Best Management Practices

Approximately 95 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: Micropile construction crews were observed drilling micropiles (pictured), and strength testing micropile foundations during the reporting period.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: During air track drilling activities, fire tools were staged on site in accordance with APM HAZ-2 and the Project Fire Plan. Environmentally Sensitive Areas were delineated with metal T-posts for avoidance in accordance with MM CUL-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Wire stringing activities were observed during the reporting period, and water tenders were observed within 2 minutes travel time of work locations in accordance with APM-HAZ-2 and the Project Fire Plan.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: Construction crews were observed adjusting conductor line sag and clipping-in conductor lines.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Biological monitors were observed conducting nesting bird surveys along the project alignment in accordance with MM-BIO-4.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: Sediment control BMPs implemented along the project alignment included the use of silt fencing and the covering of dirt stockpiles in accordance with the Project SWPPP and APM-HYD-1. Previously drilled pole holes were observed covered to prevent potential wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM-BIO-3.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 7: In accordance with the Project SWPPP and APM-HYD-1, groundwater encountered during micropile foundation hole drilling was contained with silt fencing, and transferred into containment boxes (pictured) that were emptied into a retention basin at the Santa Ysabel Staging Yard.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 8: An aquatic resources monitor was observed surveying for jurisdictional features within overland travel paths and spot checking work activities occurring near adjacent jurisdictional drainages.

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	5/2/14	Modification to Stringing Site No. 4	Approved	5/06/14
006	5/2/14	Request for Additional Staging Areas	Approved	5/07/14
007	5/06/14	Use of Existing Access Roads	Approved	5/12/14
008	5/22/14	Temporary Work Space Modifications at Stringing Site No. 14 & No. 15	Pending	