

	<p><b>California Public Utilities Commission</b>  <b><i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></b></p>
	<p><b>CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project</b></p> <p><b>Compliance Status Report: 009</b></p> <p><b>June 29, 2016</b></p>

**SUMMARY**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade 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 FEIS/EIS/EIR to mitigate or avoid impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities for 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 June 12 through June 25, 2016.

**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 applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed in the field.

***Implementation Actions***

The following summarizes CalPeco’s implementation of applicable APMs and MMs. In addition, CalPeco has submitted Weekly Compliance Reports, in accordance with the project’s MMCRP.

Scenic Resources:

All construction areas kept clean to the extent possible. Timber harvesting and cutting activities include chipping, mastication, and/or lop and scatter treatment, as appropriate and as agreed to with property owners included within the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) and USFS Timber Sale Agreement areas. Stumps were cut to meet the 6-inch maximum height requirement (APM-SCE-1).

### Air Quality and Climate Change:

Signs stating that the speed limit is 15 miles per hour in these areas have been conspicuously placed along project access routes and the ROW (APM-AQ-7). Monitors and all project personnel continue to ensure that vehicle idling times are limited to a maximum of 5 minutes for vehicles and construction equipment, except where idling was required for the equipment to perform its task. No vehicles have been left unmanned and idling (APM-AQ-14). Grading areas are limited and unpaved vehicle and equipment access roads and work areas are being watered to control fugitive dust (APM-AQ-2, AQ-4, and AQ-11). Soil stockpiles are covered in accordance with APM-AQ-6.

### Biological Resources:

Biological monitors were present during project construction activity (APM-BIO-1). Cut stumps were treated with borate compound (APM-BIO-4). Designated weed-cleaning stations were utilized to minimize the potential to spread noxious weeds (APM-BIO-6). Monitors with stop work authority were present with each vegetation removal crew to help ensure that impacts to biological resources were minimized (APM-BIO-21). Work activities were confined to approved and adequately delineated project areas (APM-BIO-26). Project work areas were kept free of trash/debris and no pets/firearms on project site (APM-BIO-33 and APM-BIO-34). Tree survey data provided to CPUC prior to tree removal activities (MM-4.7-4). Nesting bird surveys are being conducted no more than 10 days prior to construction activities and exclusionary buffer zones are being created surrounding active nests along the project alignment. (APM-BIO-18 and CDFW Final Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement). Potential bat roosts are being surveyed prior to construction in order to determine usage and all non-active roosting sites are trimmed within 30 days of the surveys in order to prevent new roosts from being established (APM-BIO-20). Biological surveys for burrows and dens are being conducted no more than 30 days prior to construction activities. All burrow and den sites are being inspected for use by sensitive mammals, and buffers will be established as necessary based on occupation. CDFW notified prior to mammal burrow/den scoping (APM-BIO-15). Final survey memo for mingan moonwort provided to the CPUC (APM-BIO-2). Construction confined to delineated work areas (APM-BIO-26). Dust control measures implemented for helicopter operations (APM-BIO-27). Nest exclusion areas identified and maintained (APM-BIO-18).

### Geology, Soils, Land Capability and Coverage:

Appropriate sediment control BMPs were in place, monitored, and maintained in accordance with the project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and APM-SOILS-1.

### Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

Fire suppression equipment was kept within 25 feet of chainsaw use areas, as required under APM-HAZ-5. Smoking occurred in designated areas (APM-HAZ-6).

### Hydrology and Water Quality:

Refueling areas were identified with signs and located 100 feet from waterways (APM-WQ-1). Tree skidding did not occur through aquatic resources (WQ-4). BMPs installed to minimize rutting and sedimentation (APM-WQ-6). Monitors on site during temporary bridge installation (stream ID 1601) and BMPs installed (APM-WQ-7).

### Recreation:

Trail closure and re-direction signs were posted where the ROW crosses public trails (APM-REC-3).

### Traffic:

Traffic is being controlled by flaggers, where necessary (APM-AQ-12). Liberty Utilities implemented its Traffic Control Plan (APM-TRAN-1), in coordination with Caltrans.

In compliance with APM-BIO-1, APM-CUL-7, APM-CUL-10, and APM-HAZ-1, Liberty Utilities continued to implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for all project personnel entering the project area. Liberty Utilities provided the required environmental awareness training to 42 people during the reporting period. Additionally, topics included in the WEAP are being reviewed daily during the morning contractor tailboard meetings.

### ***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 project's MMCRP, as referenced in the Decision for the CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project, as adopted by the CPUC on March 27, 2015 (Decision D.15-03-020).

### ***Compliance Status***

Pre-construction mitigation measures have been completed as indicated in Notice to Proceed (NTP) No. 3 (Attachment B). Applicable mitigation measures were verified during site inspections and were determined to be implemented in accordance with the MMCRP.

Further conversation regarding additional trees to be removed along the project alignment (referred to as 'add' trees by Liberty Utilities) occurred between the CPUC and Liberty Utilities. The initial incident (discussed in Weekly Compliance Report #008) involved removal of a tree outside of the ROW for which data had not been provided to the CPUC. The CPUC requested clarification on 'add' trees on June 7, 2016, noting that the only tree impacts analyzed for the project, and consequently permitted for removal under NTPs issued by the CPUC, were those within the ROW or hazard trees outside of the

ROW but within the 150-foot hazard tree border zone. On June 8, 2016, Liberty Utilities noted that no other ‘add’ trees would be cut.

On June 16, Liberty Utilities provided documentation requesting that ‘add’ trees be approved for removal and provided documentation from the USFS that ‘add’ trees on National Forest land met the hazard tree criteria, defined in the project’s EIS/EIS/EIR. The CPUC responded the same day noting that confirmation from the USFS on hazard tree status met the criteria analyzed in the project’s EIS/EIS/EIR and that removal of such trees would be consistent with the approved project.

On June 22, 2016, Liberty Utilities provided data and a statement letter from their registered professional forester (RPF) requesting that ‘add’ trees be permitted for removal on non-federal land. On the same day, the CPUC requested further clarification regarding the status if these trees and whether their removal was analyzed in the project’s EIS/EIS/EIR. On June 23, the CPUC requested further clarification on this issue.

## **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS**

The project has been broken into three phases, as summarized below:

### **Phase 1 (Rebuild and Upgrade of the 650 Line (Including the Northstar Fold (2015-2016))**

#### **Phase 1A (2015 Construction Season)**

##### *Pre-Construction Invasive Weed Treatment (CPUC NTP No. 001)*

Pre-construction weed treatment in areas identified in the project’s Invasive Plant Risk Assessment document was initiated on July 2, 2015, consistent with APM-BIO-4. Weed treatment activities covered under NTP-1 were completed in July 2015.

##### *650 Line Rebuild (Pole 291034 to 291105 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)*

Project tasks associated with Phase 1A of the 650 Line rebuild covered under NTP-2 were initiated on August 10, 2015 and were completed by November 8, 2015.

##### *Vegetation Management (Pole 291034 to 291169 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)*

Tree removal associated with Phase 1A of the 650 Line rebuild covered under NTP-2 were initiated on August 31, 2015 and were completed by November 15, 2015.

##### *Northstar Substation Rebuild (CPUC NTP No. 002)*

Project tasks associated with the Northstar Substation rebuild covered under NTP-2 were initiated on September 23, 2015 and were completed in October 2015.

### **Phase 1B (2016 Construction Season)**

#### 650 Line Rebuild (Pole 291105 to Kings Beach Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Project tasks associated with the 650 Line rebuild were initiated on May 31, 2016. During the period covered by this report, the following tasks were completed or initiated:

- Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) installed between Poles 291105 and 291129.
- Work area boundaries marked between Poles 291105 and 291129.
- Access road construction underway to Poles 291109, 291110, 291116, 291117, 291122 and 291124.
- Materials and equipment delivered and staged at the Northstar staging area.
- Installation of a temporary heavy timber stream crossing to access Poles 291109 and 291110, including installation of necessary BMPs.
- New poles installed at: 291111, 291113, 291114, 291115, 291117, 291121, and 291122.

#### Vegetation Management (Pole 291129 to Kings Beach Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Tree removal associated with the 650 Line rebuild were initiated on May 31, 2016. During the period covered by this report, the following tasks were completed or initiated:

- Tree removal activities within USFS Settlement Sale Units 2 and 3 and Timber Harvest Plan (THP) Unit 4.
- Preparation of the helicopter landing zone near Pole 291169 (THP Unit 5).
- Helicopter yarding operations for trees cut on USFS Settlement Sale Units 2 and 3.
- Processing of trees at the helicopter landing for transport.

#### Kings Beach Substation Connections (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Not started.

### **Phase 2 (Substation Upgrades, Decommissioning of the Brockway Substation (2017))**

Not Started. Estimated completion date is October 2017.

**Phase 3 (Upgrade of the 625 Line and Additional Modifications of the Substation (2019-2020))**

Not Started. Estimated completion date is October 2020.

**CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

**Phase 1 (Rebuild and Upgrade of the 650 Line (Including the Northstar Fold (2015-2016))**

**Phase 1A (2015 Construction Season)**

Pre-Construction Invasive Weed Treatment (CPUC NTP No. 001)

Completed in July 2015.

650 Line Rebuild (Pole 291034 to 291105 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Initiated on August 10, 2015, completed in November 2015.

Vegetation Management (Pole 291034 to 291169 and Pole 291105 to Northstar Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Initiated on August 31, 2015, completed in November 2015.

Northstar Substation Rebuild (CPUC NTP No. 002)

Initiated on September 23, 2015, completed in October 2015.

**Phase 1B (2016 Construction Season)**

650 Line Rebuild (Pole 291105 to Kings Beach Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Initiated on May 31, 2016, estimated completion date is October 2016.

Vegetation Management (Pole 291129 to Kings Beach Substation) (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Initiated on May 31, 2016, estimated completion date is October 2016.

Kings Beach Substation Connections (CPUC NTP No. 003)

Not started, estimated completion date is October 2016.

## ATTACHMENT A Photos

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**Photo 1:** Water truck for dust control at log landing near Pole 291169 (APM-WQ-2).

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 2:** High-pressure air noxious weed cleaning station at ROW access road entrance (APM-BIO-6).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 3:** Signage at crossing of ROW and Tahoe Rim Trail (APM-REC-3).

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)

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**Photo 4:** Stabilized entrance to ROW and work area boundary flagging (APM-BIO-26).

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)

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**Photo 5:** Silt fence installed along lower edge of ROW prior to construction activities (APM-SOILS-1).

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 6:** Bird nest buffer flagged and trees retained until nests cleared by project biologists (APM-BIO-18).

## ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

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NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC-001	July 2, 2015	Pre-Construction Weed Treatment from Martis Tap Pole to Brockway Summit	Y
CPUC-002	August 5, 2015	650 Line Re-Build Between the Martis Tap Pole and the Northstar Substation, Northstar Substation Civil Work, and Vegetation Management Between the Martis Tap Pole and Brockway Summit	Y
CPUC-003	May 26, 2016	650 Line Re-Build Between the Northstar Tap Pole and the Kings Beach Substation, Kings Beach Substation Connection Work, and Vegetation Management Between the Northstar Tap Pole and Kings Beach Substation	Y

## ATTACHMENT C

### Minor Project Refinement Request

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Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	September 23, 2015	Additional Temporary Work Areas at Poles #291087 and #291098	Approved	September 29, 2015
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