

	<b>California Public Utilities Commission</b> <b><i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></b>
	<b>CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project</b>  <b>Compliance Status Report: 008</b>  <b>June 15, 2016</b>

## 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 May 29 through June 11, 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 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).

### 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). 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 30 days prior to construction activities and exclusionary buffer zones are being created surrounding active nests along the project alignment. (APM-BIO-18). 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 (APM-BIO-15).

### 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).

### Recreation:

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

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 37 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, except as discussed below.

Dudek monitors observed inconsistent work area boundary flagging (APM-BIO-26) in timber harvest areas during inspections on June 3, 2016. This observation was communicated to Liberty Utilities on June 4, 2016. Corrective actions were identified by Liberty Utilities and communicated to the CPUC on June 6, 2016. These conditions will continue to be monitored in the field during compliance monitoring inspections.

Liberty also identified a deviation in its first Weekly Compliance Report that occurred on June 3, 2016. The deviation involved cutting of one tree which had not been cleared by biological surveys (APM-BIO-20) and for which data had not been provided to the CPUC, as required under NTP-3 (this tree was referred to as an 'add' tree, discussed further below). Further discussion between Liberty and CPUC revealed that one biological monitor was present with two tree crews. The CPUC notified Liberty Utilities on June 9, 2016 that the reported deviation was a result of ineffective implementation of several APMs and MMs. Specifically, lack of bat surveys in the subject area prior to construction activity (APM BIO-20), presence of only one environmental monitor with multiple crews during vegetation removal activities (APM BIO-21), inadequate work area fencing/flagging to prevent resource impacts (APM BIO-26), and removal of trees without prior documentation provided to CPUC (MM 4.7-4). CPUC's notification to Liberty Utilities stated that further deviations from project APMs/MMs would be considered a Noncompliance and handled according to the procedures outlined in the MMCRP. These conditions will continue to be monitored in the field during compliance monitoring inspections.

The CPUC also 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.

## **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 291125.
- Work area boundaries marked between Poles 291103 and 291107.

- Preparation of ROW between Poles 291105 and 291107 for equipment access.

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 Sale Units 2 and 3, between Poles 291172 and 291201.
- Mobilization of equipment to USFS Sale Unit 4.

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:** Chainsaw fuel kept in secondary containment (APM-WQ-1).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 2:** Freshly-cut stumps treated with borate to prevent spread of Annosus root disease (APM-BIO-4).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 3:** Approved project access and speed limit signs at ROW access point (APM-AQ-7).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 4:** Fire suppression equipment near chainsaw operators (APM-HAZ-5).



## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



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

## 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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