



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

DOWNNS SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT

To: Eric Chiang, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 20, 2015
Subject: Monitoring Report #15: March 02 to March 15, 2015

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Southern California Edison (SCE) Downs Substation Expansion Project.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction and Minor Project Change (MPC) activities are provided in Tables 1 and 2, respectively (below).

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): David DuBois was on site March 3, 2015.

Work Schedule: Work continued Monday, March 2nd through Saturday, March 7th, and Monday, March 9th through Thursday, March 12th of the subject period. No work occurred Sunday, March 8th, or Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 13th, 14th, and 15th, respectively.

CPUC NTPs

#1 Downs Substation Expansion Site

NTP #1 was issued on October 22, 2014 for the site preparation, grading, and construction of the Downs Substation expansion, adjacent to the existing Downs Substation on the corner of South Downs Street and West Ridgecrest Boulevard in Ridgecrest. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

Summary of Activity:

1. Preparation of the substation pad and surveying of the substation pad for foundation locations continued. Gravel and materials continued to be stored on the substation pad. The substation expansion pad is approximately 35% complete (see Figure 1).
2. Installation of tubular steel pole (TSP) foundations within the substation site occurred during the subject period (see Figure 2).
3. Concrete deliveries, augering, trenching and foundation installation continued in the substation expansion area during the subject period.
4. Installation of a Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) and associated wiring continued during the subject period.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Cultural monitoring has been suspended and did not occur during the subject period. The majority of grading is complete and the ground surface is 100% disturbed.
2. Biological monitoring was conducted during the subject period. No biological resources were observed during the subject period.
3. Desert tortoise fencing continued to function along the property boundary fencing. No desert tortoises have been observed at the substation site since the start of construction.



4. Following the approval of MPC #1 (see Table 2 below), vehicles are using an alternate route to access the Project work-area that avoids public traffic. During the subject period, the CPUC EM observed that the entrance was being left open; however, a biological monitor was posted at the gate throughout the day to check for wildlife (including desert tortoise).
5. Track-out was minimal during the subject period. A street sweeper is onsite to manage roadway cleaning as necessary.
6. Concrete washouts are properly contained.
7. Trash containers were observed to be securely covered during the subject period.
8. Dust control measures were implemented as necessary (see Figure 3). No dust issues were observed.

#2 Linear Portion

NTP #2 was issued on February 20, 2015 for the linear portion of the Project which includes 115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

Summary of Activity:

1. Fiber optic related boring activities occurred along short sections of the telecom route near the SCE Ridgecrest Service Center during the subject period. (see Figure 4)

Environmental Compliance:

1. Biologists and Cultural specialists are continuing preconstruction clearance and resource avoidance delineations for work areas along portions of the NTP #2 linear segment (see Figure 5).
2. Biologists continue to monitor bird nests along the NTP #2 linear segment. As of 03/20/15, one mourning dove nest was affecting work areas. A buffer has been established for the nest and fiber optic boring activities planned for this area are being postponed at this time.
3. On March 19, 2015, a revised Programmatic Nesting Buffer Plan was submitted to CPUC, CDFW, and USFWS which incorporated previous agency comments. The revised Plan is under review.

Notices to Proceed

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Downs Substation Expansion Project. NTP #2 for the remainder of the Project was issued on February 20, 2014.

Table 1
Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)
(Updated 03/20/15)

NTP #1	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	09/04/14	10/22/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Site preparation/grading, installation of substation components in the expanded Down's Substation footprint.
NTP #2	01/27/15	02/20/15	Remainder of the Project	115 kV and fiber optic installations, and substation upgrades.

Minor Project Changes

Table 2 summarizes the Minor Project Changes for the Downs Substation Expansion Project.

Table 2
Minor Project Changes (MPCs)
(Updated 03/20/15)

MPC	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
MPC #1	12/05/14	12/15/14	Downs Substation Expansion	Requests the use of an existing dirt roadway that connects the southwest corner of the work area to Church Avenue.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH



Figure 1 – Installation of the substation pad continued during the subject period.
View north, 03/03/15.



Figure 2 – Augering for TSP foundation occurred during the subject period. View
northeast, 03/03/15.



Figure 3 – Dust control measures were implemented during the subject period. View northeast, 03/03/15.



Figure 4 – Work areas were prepared for boring work, adjacent to the SCE Ridgecrest Service Center. View northwest, 03/03/15.



Figure 5 – A pole along the linear route is seen flagged for avoidance due to nearby mourning dove nest. View west, 03/03/15.