



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM SDG&E – MIGUEL-MISSION 230 kV #2 PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** February 8, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #27: January 30, 2004 – February 5, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Christopher Meyer

### **FANITA JUNCTION TO LOS COCHES SEGMENT**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on February 2 and 3 to review construction progress and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) issues. Transmission line and SWPPP work was observed during the site visit. Other work observed during the site visit in the areas covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1, #3 and #4 included the following:

1. The concrete crew continued working on the large foundation at Fanita Junction to fit the steel tower. The bolts did not extend out from the foundation far enough to account for the thickness of the steel pole's base. The foundation was chipped back to expose enough of the bolt thread to properly anchor the new pole.
2. The transmission line crew worked on grounding the poles above Santee Lakes during the site visit (see Figure 1).
3. A small crew worked with an air hammer and shovel to excavate a trench for the grounding wire for the new steel poles (see Figure 2). The crew was working east from Santee Lakes and was above the Summit Road yard during the site visit.
4. Required tower reconfiguration work for the temporary 230 kV started during the subject week; Towers 14-18 in the Sante Lakes area.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been installed around the pad locations and crews have repaired the pads and the access roads that were not passable after the early season storms. The access roads on this segment were not impacted by erosion to the same extent as the roads on the Los Coches to Miguel Substation segment; however, many were not passable after the recent storms without damaging the road surface. Access to Fanita Junction was shifted to through the landfill after the original access through Santee Lakes became impassable following the recent storms.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the project.

The CPUC EM met with Mary Turley and other representatives of SDG&E, Essex, and the BMP subcontractor on February 3, regarding the ineffectiveness of the BMPs installed on the project. While to date, no resource damage has occurred, SDG&E was notified that in the event of future resource damage due to inadequate BMPs, SDG&E would be issued written non-compliance notification. The CPUC EM reviewed

the minor, but consistent problems with incorrectly installed or inappropriate BMPs. The primary concern was related to the use of rice rolls (similar to straw waddles) in place of silt fencing or hay bales. In many cases, the BMPs selected could not impound the quantity of sediment that could be transported in a normal rain event. Over the course of the project, the installation of the rice rolls has improved significantly, resulting in less undermining. However, rice rolls are still being installed at severe angles, without sediment structures at the outlet. Another major issue on the project is related to getting water off the right-of-way. In several places, the current BMPs trapped sediment, but allowed the water to continue down the right-of-way to the next BMP structure. The cumulative amount of water generally overwhelmed the lower structures. The CPUC EM reminded SDG&E that the intent of the BMPs is to divert water off the right-of-way, into stable areas whenever possible. Large rock is being used at several locations to trap sediment and slow down the water leaving water bars. The CPUC EM recommended that SDG&E and their contractors find other methods be used to control the water velocity and that maintainable sediment traps be used at the outlets of water bars. The CPUC EM stated the concern that the annular spaces of the rock structure fill with sediment that cannot be easily removed and could be transported into the adjacent habitat in future storm events. SDG&E and its contractors understood the issues and will address any deficiencies prior to the next storm event.

## **LOS COCHES TO MIGUEL SUBSTATION SEGMENT**

### **Summary of Activity:**

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on February 2 and 3 to review construction progress and SWPPP issues. BMP and road maintenance activities were observed in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week. Access problems on Wind River Road caused SDG&E to divert crews to alternate locations. The following were the main construction activities or issues during the subject week:

1. The CPUC EM met with the local property owners, a representative of a San Diego County Supervisor, and the SDG&E Project Manager and the transmission engineer to review site conditions at Tower Sites 481 and 493 on January 26. The in-field meeting was in response to the second letter from local residents and the County Supervisor received by the CPUC Project Manager with complaints about the pole location. The CPUC EM stayed after the field meeting to answer property owner questions and concerns. The CPUC EM verified that the location where the pad grading and foundation drilling had been started match the location in the project documents (Figures 2-2 and 4-10 in the Environmental Impact Report). The major concern of the local property owners, beyond the location of the poles, was notification and public involvement in the process. Aspen has obtained a list of the local property owners and checked the names against the property owners list provided by SDG&E and the list of Scoping Meeting participants. A summary of the field meeting was provided to the CPUC via email following the meeting. Property owners blocked access to this section of right-of-way on January 27 and SDG&E is pursuing a court order to gain access to the pole location. The incident was covered by the local print and television news services. No work was scheduled at the location during the subject week. Although the sidewalk has been damaged by heavy trucks and equipment, SDG&E will repair this once all construction in the area has been completed (see Figure 3). It was noted that a local car, not owned by the property owner, was parked in front of the access route to Pole 481 (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM has requested that SDG&E place sandbags or some other protection on the edges of the steel plates due to concerns over children playing in the area.
2. A crew from the subcontractor DMX worked on BMP issues at Pole Site 440 (see Figure 5). This location has been troublesome due to the slope and the deep cut of the access road. The water from the top of the hill was not being diverted off the right-of-way and the lower water bars were regularly overwhelmed in normal rain events. The CPUC EM reviewed this with the DMX foreman and the foreman had several suggestions to address the problem. Large rock is being used at this and other locations to trap sediment and slow down the water leaving the water bars. This issue was discussed in the February 3 meeting on BMPs. Overall, the BMPs on the project are steadily improving.

3. The foundations for Pole Sites 10 and 20 have been excavated and the concrete crew has poured. DMX has improved the BMPs at Pole Site 20; however, the rice rolls at the pad for Poles 5 and 7 continue to follow the base of the fill area with no sediment trap at the outlet or low spot in the roll (see Figure 6).

**Environmental Compliance:**

The majority of the mud from the drilling operation has been cleaned from the asphalt access road at Miguel Substation (see Figure 7).

See discussion above regarding CPUC EM meeting with Mary Turley and other representatives of SDG&E, Essex, and the BMP subcontractor on February 3, regarding the ineffectiveness of the BMPs installed on the project.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

NTPs #1 and #2 have been issued by CPUC for access road upgrade/construction and 138/69 kV tower installation along the Fanita Junction to Los Coches and Los Coches to Miguel segments. NTP #3 to address the 230 kV construction work on Miramar Naval Air Station was issued by CPUC November 16. NTP #4 for upgrading of the 230 kV transmission system between the Miguel and Mission Substations, and installation of the 15-mile temporary 230 kV line from Miguel to Los Coches Substations was issued by CPUC on December 20.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

On February 3, 2005, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) submitted Variance Request #8 requesting the ability to perform construction activities after 7:00 p.m., February 8 at 230 kV Pole Site 1210. The previous attempt was unsuccessful due to a sidewall collapse during the concrete pour and work progressed past the 7:00 p.m. stop time due to the delivery of an improper concrete mix. SDG&E does not anticipate work past 7:00 p.m. unless problems occur with the pour. CPUC approved this Variance on February 4.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 02/08/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	07/07/04	Use of five storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	07/23/04
2	08/10/04	Clearing of coastal sage scrub habitat before September 1 on the Miguel to Fanita Junction section during the 2003/2004 nesting season.	Completed	08/13/04
3	09/01/04	Grading and clearing in quino checkerspot butterfly habitat after October 15.	Completed	09/14/04
4	09/06/04	Allow work on Saturdays near recreational facilities.	Completed	09/14/04
5	09/27/04	Use of six storage and staging areas on the Los Coches to Fanita Junction Section for the duration of the project.	Completed	10/06/04
6	10/20/04	Work on Sunday, October 31 at Tower Site 925 to comply with a Cal ISO outage schedule.	Completed	10/26/04
7	01/13/05	Reconfiguration of approved stringing/snubbing sites at Pole Sites 10 and 961.	Completed	01/17/05
8	02/03/05	Work after 7pm, February 8 at Pole 1210 to complete the concrete pour at the wet-hole.	Completed	02/04/05

**UPCOMING ITEMS:** SDG&E holds weekly meetings on Tuesday mornings to review issues and upcoming events.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None

**TABLE 2**  
**TEWS TRACKING**  
(Updated 02/08/05)

Number	Segment	Date Received	Description	Status	Approval Date <sup>1</sup>
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	14000 Block of Willow Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
*	Los Coches to Miguel	07/06/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/08 to 9/08	See Variance Request #1
1	Los Coches to Miguel	07/24/04	Vista de Montemar ½ mile north of La Cresta Road, San Diego County	Approved from 7/26 to 9/26	See Variance Request #2
2	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	1600 Block Sweeney Court, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
3	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	2300 Willow Glen Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
4	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	South of terminus of Camino Monte Sombra, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
5	Los Coches to Miguel	08/14/04	Southeast of 2600 block Pence Drive, San Diego County	Approved from 08/16 to 10/16	See Variance Request #2
6	Los Coches to Miguel	08/26/04	North side of Singing Vista Way, San Diego County	Approved from 08/27 to 10/27	See Variance Request #2

<sup>1</sup>For TEWS requests, Approval Date reflects EM approval date. TEWS approvals valid for 60 days only.

\*TEWS submitted as a contingency while Variance Request #1 was under review.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – The transmission line crew worked on grounding issues above Santee Lakes during the subject week.



**Figure 2** – A small crew excavated the trench for the grounding cable above the Summit Road yard.



**Figure 3** – The sidewalk at the SDG&E access to Pole Site 481 along with any impacts outside the access easement, will be repaired at the end of the project.



**Figure 4** – The access to Pole Site 481 continues to be blocked by local residents. The CPUC EM has requested protection be added to the edge of the steel plating.



**Figure 5** – DMX worked to improve BMPs at Pole Site 440.  
The maintenance of the rock sediment traps is a concern.



**Figure 6** – DMX improved the BMPs at Pole Site 10.  
Additional work may be required at the pad for Poles 5 and 7.



**Figure 7** – The majority of the mud from the drilling operation has been cleaned from the asphalt access road at Miguel Substation.