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**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E SEVENTH STANDARD SUBSTATION PROJECT**

To: Monisha Gangopadhyay, CEQA Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 22, 2010
Subject: Weekly Report #2: March 15, 2010 – March 20, 2010

CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM): Lynn Stafford

CPUC EM, Lynn Stafford, was on site March 18th. During the visit, he met with Matthew Mills, PG&E Inspector.

The SCE Seventh Standard Project includes: construction of a new 115/21-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution substation, constructed on an approximate five acre almond orchard site at 33815 Seventh Standard Road in Bakersfield, California. The project also includes installation of three tubular steel poles, including two dead-ends, two drop-down structures, up to nine distribution circuits (at full buildout), and a paved 550-foot-long access road from Seventh Standard Road to the substation.

Currently, under Notice to Proceed #1, construction is limited to site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within the Seventh Standard Substation property.

Summary of Activity:

Prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed #1, the almond trees within the five acre site had been removed by PG&E during fall 2009, in preparation for substation construction. Also, Crimson Oil Company, which owns a nearby capped oil well, placed an oil pipe encased in corrugated steel culvert pipe in a trench across the location of the to-be-constructed access road to the substation.

During the subject week, preparation and grading of the site continued. Material was shifted by excavators to rows. The material was then relocated, compacted, and graded. Roots from the earlier tree removal were removed during the operation (see Figure 1).

At the beginning of the subject week, irrigation water from the adjacent almond grove had broken through a levee and flooded the western portion of the site. The water was pumped out, and the area left to dry out, while operations were moved to the eastern half of the site.

An abandoned water irrigation pipe was discovered during excavation, and was removed.

The contractor used a water truck for both compaction and dust control. Dust control was observed to be adequate

All personnel receive environmental training by a representative of Transcon, a PG&E consultant, prior to commencing work on the Project. This training includes all subjects included in the mitigation measures and the SWPPP for the project. Thirty-seven employees have received training to date. The training materials, as well as pertinent permits, and other Project documents, were available on a daily basis onsite. The sign-sheets were viewed by the CPUC EM. The sign-up sheets will be sent to the CPUC.

The contractor presently is working from 0700 hours through 1730 hours Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.



Besides the PG&E Inspector, a biological monitor and a soils inspector were present during the grading operation. The biological monitor performed kit fox sweeps before commencement of construction each day, checked periodically for nearby nesting birds and other wildlife, and trained new employees as they arrived.

No evidence of kit fox was found, and no birds were nesting in the immediate vicinity of the project. The only animal found so far was an unidentified mouse that was inadvertently killed by construction activity. The workers stopped and directed the biological monitor to inspect the animal. The monitor determined that there is no possibility of it being a special status species.

A shaker plate with rock apron was in place at the entrance of the access road to Seventh Standard Road. After grading of the site is completed, the access road will be paved.

The PG&E Inspector noted that one of the excavators had been leaking small amounts of fluid. The contaminated soil was collected and disposed of according to protocol. The excavator has been replaced.

The CPUC EM observed that the work site was clean with no trash, including food-related materials, present. A hand board was present at the site with safety instructions and equipment in place.

Summary of Environmental Compliance:

The CPUC NTP #1 included seven specific conditions to be met during or prior to construction. Evidence was either obtained prior to the CPUC EM site visit or observed on site that all conditions were being met. All permits, compliance plans, NTP #1, copies of environmental training materials, and training sign-up sheets were on site. The pre-construction biological survey was executed on February 12, 2010, and subsequently reported. Because PG&E decided to provide a fulltime biological monitor, the five questions concerning implementation and documentation of biological resource protection measures are being addressed on a daily basis.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On March 2, 2010, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for site grading, civil work, and installation of three tubular steel pole foundations and poles for the power line within Seventh Standard Substation property.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests have been submitted to date.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

No Project Memorandum or Non-Compliance Report (NCR) has been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: During soil preparation and grading, remaining roots from the earlier almond grove removal were hand collected and piled on site. They will be removed from the Project site. Protocol calls for removal of roots one-half inch in diameter and greater. Observation indicates that even smaller roots are being removed. The pile in the photograph represents approximately one and one-half acres of the five-acre site. The photograph was taken on the edge of the access road, and faces southwestward across the western portion of the substation site.