



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** December 22, 2004  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #20: December 12, 2004 – December 18, 2004  
**CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Christopher Meyer

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

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

The CPUC EM conducted site visits on December 15 and 16. Compaction, brush removal, and drilling work occurred in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #1 and NTP #3 during the site visit.

The grading of the pads for the 230 kV towers at Fanita Junction, on Miramar, was completed during the subject week. Crews worked on drilling during the CPUC site visit (see Figure 1). The grading issues related to the access road to the Fanita Junction locations have been addressed by SDG&E and the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI). The loose material has been removed and the road cuts seeded.

For the, 138/69 kV tower installation, stringing cannot proceed until the upper section of several towers are placed and the foundations at several locations cure for at least 30 days. The PAR transmission line crew worked on both placing tower bases and preparing upper sections.

The Low Drill drilling machine continued work at Tower Site 1160 during the site visit. Loose material was visible moving down the slope at the drill site and needs to be contained (see Figure 2). The contractor is reviewing plans to change the drilling method at the site due to safety concerns related to blasting.

A crew worked at Tower Site 1210 where the foundation needs to be removed due to inclusions during the pour. Sections of the rebar cage were visible once the foundation was exposed (see Figure 3). The crew was working to backfill the excavation in lifts to preserve compaction. The moisture in the soil caused problems with compaction as water pumped from lower lifts. The contractor elected to place fabric and rock to address the pumping concerns.

#### **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.

Fugitive dust was observed leaving the right-of-way at Fanita Junction during the site visit (see Figure 4). The spoil piles and access roads had not been watered and the plastic covering on the spoil piles had blown off in the high winds. Some of the rice waddles placed around the pad site are nearly vertical on the slope and do not conform to the design of the BMP (see Figure 5). The Essex EI was notified of both issues.

An Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) was on-site for spot-checking environmental compliance issues on the segment. The paleontological monitor was on-site to monitor the excavation on Miramar Naval Air Station during the subject week. No fossils or fossil bearing soils were noted during the week.

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

### **Summary of Activity:**

Drilling and concrete set-up activities were observed in the area covered by Notice to Proceed (NTP) #2 during the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted site visits on December 15 and 16.

The drilling crew completed work at Tower Site 881 and broke down the machine for travel (see Figure 6). The concrete crew was on-site to prepare the foundation for pouring. The drilling machine continued working south of Highway 8 during the site visit (see Figure 7).

A small PAR crew worked to attach the arms to the upper sections of the steel poles between Tower Site 925 and Tower Site 881 (see Figure 8).

The CPUC EM met with the SDG&E Project Manager and transmission engineer to review site conditions at Tower Site 481 on December 7. The field visit was in response to the letter from local residents received by the CPUC Project Manager with complaints about pole location. The CPUC EM verified that the location where the pad grading and foundation drilling have been completed match the location in the project documents (Figures 2-2 and 4-10 in the Environmental Impact Report). No additional information has been received on this issue.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM noted that the contractor has used the time between the storms to address many of the SWPPP issues from the previous weeks. Several water bars have been added to the segment to protect the pads from erosion due to storm water flowing down the existing access roads.

The PAR crew assembling the upper sections pulled a vehicle off the right-of-way. The truck did not damage any native vegetation due to the recent fire damage in the area and was moved back onto the access road. The Essex EI will address access road and parking issues with the crews.

SDG&E is looking at ways to stabilize the cut slopes that are partially rock. These slopes are a mix of topsoil and bedrock and cannot be easily stabilized by matting.

### **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.

On December 13, SDG&E submitted the request for NTP #4 that will cover the 230 kV stringing on the project. In addition pre-construction compliance materials were provided for several mitigation measures. The CPUC EM requested that SDG&E address as many temporary work space and stringing site issues as possible in the NTP request to minimize future Variance Requests. The CPUC EM visited Mission Trail Regional Park with the Essex Lead EI and the SDG&E archaeologist to locate an archaeological site near the proposed stringing location. The old and vague map placed the archaeolog-

ical site near the stringing location; however, field verification placed the site on a small hill to the south. In any case, the proposed stringing location is within the disturbed road cut and no disturbance to archaeological resources is anticipated during the proposed stringing activities. SDG&E will address this site in the NTP request.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests were received during the subject week.

**TABLE 1  
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**

(Updated 12/22/04)

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

**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 12/22/04)

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

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 PAR crew worked on the drilling covered under NTP #3, on Miramar Naval Air Station, during the subject week.



**Figure 2** – The Low Drill continued work at Tower Site 1160. Note material moving down hillside under the drill.



**Figure 3** – The contractor worked on compaction at Tower Site 1210 after the foundation was exposed for inspection. The current foundation will be removed below grade and the entire operation repeated.



**Figure 4** – Fugitive dust was observed leaving the right-of-way at Tower Site 601 during the site visit. The roads and spoil piles had not been watered recently.



**Figure 5** – Several of the straw waddles placed at Tower Site 601 cannot contain the material above or are installed at very steep angles.



**Figure 6** – The drilling at Tower Site 881 was completed during the week.



**Figure 7** – The drilling continued south of Highway 8.



**Figure 8** – The PAR crew attached the arms to the upper section of the steel pole.  
Note the red truck parked off the access road, in the habitat.