

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></p> |
| | <p>East County (ECO) Substation Project</p> <p>Compliance Status Report: 002</p> <p>March 27, 2013</p> |

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation 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 FEIR/EIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on 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 March 11, to March 25, 2013.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations at the ECO Substation site and at a single geotechnical boring site located along an unnamed private dirt road. Site observations were completed from March 11 through March 15 and from March 18 through March 22. Areas of active and inactive construction within the project limits were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project’s MMCRP. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

Mobilization of Construction Equipment and Installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

CPUC authorized construction of the ECO Substation component via Notice to Proceed (NTP) No. 002 on February 1, 2013 (see Attachment B). San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and their construction contractor continued to mobilize construction equipment to the ECO Substation project site. On March

11, 2013 two D-8 bulldozers and six water trucks were brought on-site and on March 20, 2013 a chipper was mobilized on-site to assist with vegetation clearing activities.

On March 11, 2013 SDG&E began installing best management practices including silt fencing around the perimeter of the site (see Photo 1 – Attachment A) and the placement of rattle plates and a rock apron at the project site entrance (see Photo 2 – Attachment A). The silt fence has been installed in accordance with Mitigation Measure HYD-1 and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to minimize the potential for erosion to occur off-site. The rattle plates were installed to clean the tires of equipment and vehicles of debris prior to leaving the project site and to prevent vehicle track-out in accordance with Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The silt fencing, rattle plates, and rock apron were observed to be maintained in good condition throughout this reporting period.

Site Clearing and Grubbing

Areas of active construction were limited to clearing and grubbing activities associated with the ECO Substation site. Activities consisted of clearing and removal of vegetation within the approved project limits and compaction of soil to establish the grade of the site. Cleared vegetation was observed being mulched by a chipper and stored on-site (see Photo 3 – Attachment A). The mulched vegetation is anticipated to be removed from the ECO Substation site via haul trucks during the week of March 25.

In accordance with Mitigation Measures BIO-1c and CUL-1d, biological and archaeological monitors were present during all ground-disturbing activities. In addition, the appropriate fire personnel and fire suppression equipment were observed on-site in accordance with Mitigation Measure FF-1 (See Photo 4 - Attachment A). Water trucks were observed watering down access roads and areas of active construction in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-4a and the Dust Control Plan. In addition, soil stabilizers were placed on the cleared portions of the ECO Substation site to prevent fugitive dust from being generated during periods of inactivity (see Photo 5 – Attachment A).

Stakes, flagging, exclusionary fencing, and signage have also been placed to delineate the approved work limits and to identify environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) to minimize the potential for impacts to sensitive resources (see Photo 6 – Attachment A). ESA fencing was observed to be properly identified and maintained in good condition throughout this reporting period.

In accordance with the Nesting Bird Management, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan (Mitigation Measure BIO-7j), a pre-vegetation clearing survey for avian nesting will be conducted no more than 10 days prior to vegetation clearing. If any active nest is located, the nest area will be flagged or otherwise marked for avoidance, and a buffer zone will be established. SDG&E avian biologists approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CPUC were observed completing pre construction nesting bird surveys throughout the reporting period. Protective buffers were also observed where active nests have been identified and nesting activities were continually monitored by avian biologists.

Geotechnical Investigations

Substation site and at single geotechnical boring sites located along an unnamed private dirt road

A single geotechnical boring was observed along an unnamed private dirt road located on private land (see Photo 7 – Attachment A). No grading or clearing of vegetation was required to obtain access to the geotechnical boring location. The bore location was backfilled following drilling activities and returned to pre-construction conditions. A truck-mounted drill rig was used to drill this boring location. An SDG&E biological and archaeological monitor along with fire-prevention crew and equipment were present during the geotechnical activities.

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 FEIR/FEIS for the ECO Substation Project, as adopted by the CPUC on April 19, 2012 (Decision 12-04-022).

Compliance

Pre-construction mitigation measures have been completed as indicated in CPUC NTP No. 001, No. 002, No. 003, No. 004 and BLM NTP No. 001 (see Attachment B). Applicable mitigation measures were verified during site inspections and were determined to be implemented in accordance with the MMCRP.

On March 12, 13, 14, and 21 dust flare-ups were observed during clearing and grubbing activities that were exacerbated during periods of high winds. The SDG&E Lead Environmental Inspector periodically halted work activities during this reporting period and on March 21 stopped work activities for the day to minimize the potential for dust emissions to travel beyond the approved work limits in accordance with the Dust Control Plan. Additional water trucks were mobilized to the site to assist with dust suppression activities, and in cases where a single water truck was available, bulldozers were instructed to perform clearing activities side by side to allow for adequate dust suppression (see Photo 8 – Attachment A).

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Abatement Activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site

All abatement activities associated with the removal of environmental hazards present in existing buildings and structures at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site as authorized by CPUC NTP No. 001 have been completed.

ECO Substation Site Construction

SDG&E began site-clearing activities associated with the ECO Substation site on March 11, 2013 and anticipates completion of site clearing activities on March 29.

Geotechnical Investigations

All geotechnical investigations authorized by CPUC NTP No. 003, No. 004, and BLM NTP No. 001 to conduct 24 geotechnical borings were completed as of March 14, 2013

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Abatement Activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site (CPUC NTP No. 001) – SDG&E began abatement activities on December 3, 2012, and abatement activities were completed on December 7, 2012.

ECO Substation Construction (CPUC NTP No. 002) – SDG&E began clearing activities associated with the ECO Substation on March 11, 2013, clearing activities are anticipated to be completed on March 29, 2013.

Geotechnical Investigations (CPUC NTP No. 003 and No. 004 and BLM NTP No. 001) – SDG&E began construction on February 11, 2013, and construction was completed by March 14, 2013.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: Silt fencing is installed around the perimeter of the ECO Substation site to prevent on-site erosion in accordance with mitigation measure HYD-1 and the SWPPP.



Photo 2: Rattle plates and a rock apron are placed at the project site entrance to clean the tires of equipment and vehicles prior to leaving the project site and to prevent vehicle track-out in accordance with Mitigation Measure AQ-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: Cleared vegetation is mulched by a chipper and temporarily stored on-site. The mulched vegetation is anticipated to be removed from the ECO Substation site via haul trucks during the week of March 25th.



Photo 4: In accordance with Mitigation Measure FF-1, SDG&E is providing ongoing fire patrols during construction hours and for 1 hour after the end of daily construction.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: Soil stabilizers are placed on the cleared portions of the ECO Substation site to prevent fugitive dust from being generated during periods inactivity in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-4a and the Dust Control Plan.



Photo 6: Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) have been flagged in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-1 and signage delineating approved project access roads has been installed in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-1a.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 7: SDG&E archaeological and biological monitors observed construction crews using a truck-mounted drill rig to conduct a geotechnical boring at site GEO-11b.



Photo 8: A biological monitor observes a water truck suppressing dust as bulldozers perform side-by-side clearing activities at the ECO Substation site.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

| NTP No. | Date Issued | Description | Conditions Included (Y/N) |
|------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| CPUC - 001 | November 30, 2012 | Abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation rebuild site. | Y |
| CPUC - 002 | February 1, 2013 | Construction of a new substation (a 500-kilovolt (kV) yard and a 230/138 kV yard) and rebuilding and paving of an existing access road to provide main access to the substation. | Y |
| CPUC - 003 | February 1, 2013 | Twenty-two geotechnical borings to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on private lands. | Y |
| CPUC - 004 | March 4, 2013 | A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on private lands. | Y |
| BLM - 001 | February 11, 2013 | A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on lands administered by the BLM. | Y |

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

| Minor Project Refinement Request No. | Submitted | Description | Status | Approval |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 001 | January 25, 2013 | The addition of a temporary, polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-lined retention basin with the 500 kV yard to be used for water storage during initial mass grading activities. | Approved | February 7, 2013 |
| 002 | March 22, 2013 | Adjustments to the Domingo Lake and Jewel Valley Construction Yards including: <u>Domingo Lake Construction Yard</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift of approximately 550 feet to the northwest <u>Jewel Valley Construction Yard</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of a new temporary access road • Addition of a temporary 12 kV distribution service line extension (distribution tap) • Additional grading activities at the intersection of Jewel Valley Road and the existing access road located north of the Jewel Valley Construction Yard | Pending | Pending |
| 003 | March 22, 2013 | To use Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard 2 for general construction activities, such as staging and storage of materials in addition to helicopter takeoffs, landings, and refueling as approved in the Project's Final EIR/EIS. | Pending | Pending |