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## PROJECT MEMORANDUM SCE DPV2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

**To:** Billie Blanchard, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 6, 2012  
**Subject:** Weekly Report 33, February 27 to March 4, 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the SCE DPV2 Transmission Line and Red Bluff Substation Projects. This report is organized as follows:

- Transmission Line Construction
- Substation Construction and Upgrades
- Construction Yards and Other Workspaces

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Additionally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) and non-compliance activities are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

**CPUC/BLM/Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM):** Ryann Loomis, Rosina Gallego, and Jamie Miner

### TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

#### Summary of Activity

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) to Red Bluff Substation
  - Tower assembly crews worked at CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, and CR1-4E. Tower erection activities were initiated at Tower CR1-2W during the subject period (see Figure 1).
  - Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Tower 2648 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1W, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E.
  - Foundation drilling activities occurred at Tower 2650 and CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E.
  - BMPs were installed and/or maintained at Towers 2648, 2649, and 2650 and at CRS Loop-in Towers CR1-1W, CR1-2W, CR1-3W, CR1-3E, CR1-4E, and CR1-5E. Installation and/or maintenance of BMPs also occurred along the access roads associated with these locations.
2. Red Bluff Substation to Devers Substation
  - Crane pad grading occurred at Red Bluff Loop-in Towers RB1-1W and RB2-1W and spur road grading occurred at Tower RB2-4E.
  - Activities associated with the installation of a wet crossing along the spur road to Red Bluff Loop-in Tower RB1-4E were conducted (see Figure 2).
  - BMP installation/maintenance activities were conducted at Red Bluff Loop-in Towers RB1-1W, RB2-1W, RB1-5W, RB2-5W, and RB1-4E.



- Site verification surveys were conducted at Towers 2506-2509 and Red Bluff Loop-in Towers RB1-2E, RB2-3E, RB1-5E, and RB2-5E.

### 3. Devers Substation to Valley Substation

- BMP installation occurred at Towers 1011, 1014, 1015, 1061, and 1064.
- BMP maintenance occurred at Towers 1011-1016, 1018-1019, 1021-1024, 1027-1031, 1051-1054, 1057-1060, 1061/R1, 1062/R2, 1064/R4, and 1065.
- Foundation drilling occurred at Towers 1062, R2, and R4 (see Figure 3).
- Foundation concrete pouring occurred at Towers 1062, R2, and R4.
- Tower assembly occurred at Tower 1061 (see Figure 4).

### **Environmental Compliance**

- Biological and Archaeological monitors were present as applicable during all transmission line construction activities.
- Approved monitors for Coachella Valley milk-vetch were onsite for all ground disturbing activities at applicable tower sites and completed clearance surveys before construction occurred.
- Fugitive dust control was noted by SCE general and biological monitors at all construction sites and access roads.
- On February 29, the CPUC EM noticed water puddled on top of plastic sheeting that was being used to contain a concrete washout tub. The Kenney Construction Coordinator informed the CPUC EM that he was already notified by the SCE SWPPP Coordinator of the issue and it would be resolved that day.
- On February 28, the CPUC EM observed an uncontained plastic trash bag attached to the side of a portable project outhouse at the intersection of Chuckwalla Road and Corn Springs Road. There were no construction activities or personnel in the area so the CPUC EM informed the crew at the Red Bluff Substation. The crew stated that the outhouse was the responsibility of PAR; however, they would resolve the issue and the bag was removed that day.
- The desert tortoise that was relocated from near Tower 2514 was monitored daily by SCE Biological Monitors/Authorized Biologists throughout the subject period. Under authorization from SCE's Biological Subject Matter Expert, Assistant Lead Biologist, and Biological Monitor, the new offsite burrow location was fortified using plywood, rocks, and dirt to prevent the relocated tortoise from leaving.
- Two individual Mojave fringe-toed lizards were observed by SCE Biological Monitors during construction activities at the CRS Loop-in tower sites. One individual was detected within the disturbance area at Tower CR1-1W and was herded approximately 60 feet away into adjacent habitat. The other lizard was observed outside of any disturbance area, where it was monitored to ensure that it would not enter the construction sites.
- A hydraulic leak (approximately 2 quarts) occurred at Tower 1012 from a hose on a D6 dozer. Approximately 3 cubic feet of soil was removed, and the spill was entirely cleaned up. The spill was documented and the contaminated soil was taken offsite for proper disposal and the piece of equipment was repaired.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Transmission Line activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

### **Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

## **SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES**

### **Summary of Activity**

1. Colorado River Substation (CRS) (BLM Lands) – Rough grading of the substation site continued throughout the subject period. Additionally, trenching activities associated with the installation of reinforced concrete pipes (RCPs) were conducted. Built-Rite Fencing was onsite to conduct modification to the substation desert tortoise exclusionary fencing. Grading and culvert installation continued along the primary access road. BMPs were installed and/or maintained as appropriate within the substation work limits and along the access road.
2. CRS Telecomm Line (BLM and Private Lands) – No major activities were conducted along the CRS telecomm line during the subject period.
3. Series Capacitor (BLM Lands) – No major activities were conducted at the Series Capacitor site during the subject period.
4. Red Bluff Substation (BLM Lands) – Major civil work, including vegetation removal and grading (cut and fill) activities, continued at the Red Bluff Substation site throughout the subject period. Sprinkler system installation and modifications were conducted to facilitate pre-soaking of the site and water well testing. Rock crushing equipment was delivered on several trucks on February 28 (see Figure 5). Skid plates and rock base were installed at the entrance to Corn Springs Road at Chuckwalla Road.

### **Environmental Compliance**

- SCE General, Biological, and Archeological Monitors were onsite throughout all construction activities associated with CRS and the Red Bluff Substation.
- On March 1, the SCE Archeological Monitor observed a lithic artifact located on a table in one of the new office trailers at the CRS site. The SCE Lead Archaeologist was immediately notified of the observation by the monitor. The SCE Archeological Monitor reported that the issue was addressed at the afternoon tailboard meeting. During the meeting, crews were reminded of the importance of not picking up anything from the ground without consulting with the appropriate monitors onsite.
- The proper protocols were implemented on March 1 when a potentially significant cultural resource was discovered during rough grading of the CRS access road. Upon discovery, a temporary Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) barrier of 200 feet was immediately established and all construction activities were stopped within the area. The SCE Archeological Monitor notified the appropriate SCE personnel who, in turn, notified the CPUC and BLM. The ESA barrier remains and monitors are being stationed at the site until further investigation and coordination is implemented.
- While traveling east along the CRS primary access road, the CPUC EM observed excessive dust originating from the CRS site on March 2 (see Figure 6). The CPUC EM notified the SCE General Monitor of the concern, who informed the CPUC EM that he was aware of the issue and it was being resolved. Work at the CRS site was later stopped for the day due to a lack of water for dust suppression.
- On February 28, the SCE General Monitor reported that a truck delivering a Baker tank to the Red Bluff Substation site ruptured its gas tank on a large rock. The delivery driver and Cattrac workers immediately contained the leaking diesel with plastic sheeting and drip pans. The ruptured fuel tank was then drained into a Cattrac vehicle using a fuel pump. The delivery truck was moved away from the spill site once the fuel tank was completely drained and parked on a plastic sheeting barrier with drip pans. In total, approximately three gallons of fuel were spilled along a trail roughly six inches wide and twenty feet long (see Figure 7). The contaminated soil was removed and placed in a 55-gallon drum to be hauled offsite. A mechanic was scheduled to come make the appropriate repairs to the delivery truck and remove it from the site the following day.

- On February 28, the SCE Air Quality Specialist indicated that the cone rock crusher that had been delivered to the Red Bluff Substation site earlier that day required a PERP certification due to the dust that would be produced.
- On February 28, the CPUC EM observed a large stockpile of desert pavement soils in the northeast corner of the Red Bluff Substation site (see Figure 8). This soil was being properly salvaged per mitigation requirements.
- The CPUC EM observed water pooling behind a check dam just north of the water well site at the Red Bluff Substation on March 1 (see Figure 9). The CPUC EM notified the SCE Biological Monitor and the area of concern was filled with soil that day.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Substation Construction and Upgrade activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

**CONSTRUCTION YARDS AND OTHER WORKSPACES**

**Summary of Activity:**

Non-Federal Lands:

Blythe Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Desert Center 1 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Desert Center 2 Yard (Material Yard/Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, material deliveries, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Chiriaco Summit Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities occurred during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Indio 2 Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Devers Yard (Material Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Devers 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Beaumont Yard (Material Yard) - No construction activities were conducted during the subject time period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, and material deliveries.

Beaumont 2 Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking.

Menifee Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. Activities are limited to minor maintenance, implementation of BMPs, temporary storage of construction equipment and materials, and worker vehicle parking. Gravel in the yard is currently being dragged each day to prevent nesting bird activity in the yard (See Figure 10).

Perris Yard (Contractor Show-Up Yard) – No construction activities were conducted during the subject period. This yard is not currently being utilized.

**Environmental Compliance:**

- Biological sweeps of the construction yards were conducted by the SCE Biological Monitors throughout the subject period.
- CPUC EMs observed adequate measures, including bird netting, secondary containment, and BMPs in place at all construction yard locations.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Construction yard activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

**Agency Representatives during Construction (Other than CPUC EMs):**

None.

**CPUC/BLM NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS)**

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC/BLM Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the DPV2 and Red Bluff Projects, to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**NTPS**  
(Updated 04/06/12)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
<b>CPUC NTPs</b>				
NTP #1	04/28/11	06/23/11	Yards	Authorization to proceed with the development of the Devers, Desert Center 1, Desert Center 2, Summit, Blythe, Perris, Beaumont, and Menifee Construction Yards.
NTP #2	08/05/11	09/09/11	T/L	Installation of exclusionary fencing, Devers to Blythe. No cultural resources affected. Bio pending.
NTP #3	08/26/11	09/19/11	Yards	Construction of Beaumont Construction Yard #2.
NTP #4	09/09/11	09/20/11	Yards	Construction of Indio Construction Yard.
NTP #5	09/16/11	10/11/11	Red Bluff Distribution Line	Upgrades to a segment of the existing SCE 12 kV circuit overhead distribution line to supply light and power to the Red Bluff Substation, non-BLM lands.
NTP #6	09/16/11	10/17/11	Substation	Authorization to proceed with improvements to the new Colorado River Substation on private lands, including extension of the existing 33 kV distribution line, installation of a new telecommunication line, and access road improvements.
NTP #7	09/09/11	12/01/11	T/L – DPV1	Construction activities associated with a minor relocation of the Devers-Valley No. 1 Line (DV1).

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
NTP #8	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – CRS to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between Red Bluff and Colorado River Substations and replacement of existing DPV1 overhead ground wire; non-BLM lands.
NTP #9	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Red Bluff	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between the existing Devers Substation and the new Red Bluff Substation; non-BLM lands.
NTP #10	10/08/11	12/02/11	T/L – Devers to Valley	Construction of the DPV2 transmission line between existing Devers and Valley Substations; not including San Bernardino National Forest lands.
NTP #11	11/08/11	12/10/11	Yards	Construction of Devers 2 and Indio 2 Construction Yards.
NTP #12	01/20/12	02/03/12	Yards	Construction of Desert Center 3 Construction Yard.
<b>BLM NTPs</b>				
BLM NTP #1	08/26/11	09/19/11	DPV2 Substation, T/L	Authorization to proceed with construction of the DPV2 Transmission Line, Colorado River Substation, and associated project components on BLM lands.
BLM NTP #2	08/26/11	09/19/11	Substation	Construction of Red Bluff Substation and associated project components, BLM lands.

## VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/06/12)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #1	05/06/11	05/24/11	Devers-Valley	Construction of traditional lattice towers instead of "Tetra" towers at two locations (Structures #1139 and #1140)
VR #2	04/21/11	05/26/11	All	Revisions to Mitigation Measure B-7d pertaining to seasonal restrictions for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard to support consistency with conditions provided in the Biological Opinion.
VR #3	07/12/11	07/18/11	DC 1 & DC 2 Yards	Utilize offsite well location and installation of 12,000-gallon water tank for filling trucks.
VR #4	07/06/11	07/21/11	Menifee Yard	Expansion of Menifee Construction Yard, which would include approximately 5 acres of additional disturbance within the western portion of the parcel, for material storage and other activities.
VR #5	04/22/11	07/28/11	CRS Devers and Valley Substations, Series Capacitor Site	Modification of APM A-7 regarding carpooling for construction at substations.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #6	07/07/11	08/01/11	Menifee, Beaumont, Perris Yards	Request to remove Mitigation Measures B-13a and B-13b, and to modify B-1a, B-1a (revised), and B-7e pertaining to Western Riverside County MSHCP compliance.
VR #7	08/11/11	08/22/11	Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, Blythe Yards	Request to utilize offsite water hydrants at Perris, Beaumont, Menifee, and Blythe Construction Yards.
VR #8	08/26/11	08/27/11	Beaumont Yard	Request to install seeded jute netting along the property frontage at Beaumont Construction Yard.
VR #9	08/24/11	09/01/11	DC 2 Yard	Request for installation of temporary power poles outside of Desert Center 2 Construction Yard.
VR #10	08/26/11	09/01/11	Devers & Summit Yards	Utilize offsite water locations needed for dust suppression at Devers and Summit Construction Yards.
—	09/21/11	Retracted	Perris Yard	Request for additional workspace involving vegetation clearing, installation of BMPs, and temporary driveway installation at Perris Construction Yard.
VR #11	09/26/11	09/28/11	T/L	Two water sources for exclusionary fencing work.
VR #12	10/13/11	10/18/11	T/L	Request for parking/temporary staging of vehicles along existing access road within the Coachella Valley Preserve during exclusionary fencing activities.
VR #13	10/26/11	11/10/11	Devers Yard	Request for temporary power supply to provide power to construction trailer at the Devers #1 Construction Yard.
VR #14	11/10/11	11/28/11	Substation	Request for increased well pumping to support civil work, including access road improvements, at Colorado River Substation.
VR #15	12/13/11	12/14/11	Summit Yard	Request for temporary power outside yard boundaries required to power office trailers.
VR #16	12/22/11	01/04/12	Project-wide	Request to approve alternate/extended work hours project-wide.
VR #17	01/04/12	01/09/12	Project-wide	Request to utilize existing approved construction yard and/or exclusionary fencing water sources for transmission line construction needs.
VR #18	10/25/12 10/26/12	Denied 01/13/12	Substation	Request to formalize changes to the Red Bluff MMCRP Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and Applicant Measure BIO-5.
VR #19	01/06/12	01/18/12	T/L	Request to allow the usage of helicopter landing zone H9-DV as a replacement for H8-DV.
VR #20	01/13/12	01/19/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Cabazon area for dust suppression.
VR#21	01/20/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request for the use of offsite water hydrants located in the Lake Tamarisk area for dust suppression

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
VR #21 Mod	03/16/12	03/21/12	T/L	Modification to VR #21. Request installation of two driveways and an underground water line adjacent to the approved stand tank locations at the Lake Tamarisk Resort water source.
VR #22	01/25/12	02/02/12	T/L	Request to install 10,000-gallon standing water tanks at three locations.
VR #23	01/27/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request to modify NTP #10 and MM AQ-1g for additional t-line helicopter construction.
VR #24	02/08/12	02/21/12	T/L	Request for approval to purchase MWD water credits in lieu of Colorado River water credits due to the unavailability of water allotments within the Colorado River Basin.
VR #25	02/10/12	02/28/12	T/L	Request for use of existing DPV1 access roads and spur/stub roads for parking and staging of vehicles and equipment.
VR #26	03/09/12	03/16/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located on a private date farm.
VR #27	03/09/12	03/20/12	Substation	Request for the use of offsite water source located off Corn Springs Road.
VR #28	03/22/12	03/30/12	T/L	DPV2 Gas Line Road.
VR #29	03/22/12	04/04/12	T/L	DVP1 minor relocation of outage pull sites.
	03/16/12	Under review	T/L	HLS H7-DV boundary modification.
	03/16/12	Under review	Substation	Red Bluff Loop-in pull site modifications.
	03/23/12	Under review	Substation	CRS pull sites.
	03/28/12	Under review	Substation	Request for HLZ (helicopter landing zone) at Red Bluff Loop-in Tower site RB1-2W.
	04/04/12	Under review	T/L	Request for a HLZ and temporary disturbance area shifts.
	04/06/12	Under review	Substation	Additional water sources @ Red Cloud Road, Red Bluff Substation.
<b>BLM</b>				
BLM #1	10/18/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to install a temporary guard structure along the entrance of the existing transmission line access road for Colorado River Substation.
BLM #2	10/19/11	10/27/11	Substation	Request to approve 24-hour drilling operations at the CRS site.
DNA #1	10/27/11	12/07/11	Series Capacitor	Request for a slight expansion of the Series Capacitor site due to engineering conflicts.
DNA #2	12/21/11	02/01/12	Red Bluff	Request to install secondary well at Red Bluff Substation site.

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment	Description
	12/22/11	Under review	Series Capacitor	Request to relocate a portion of the Imperial Irrigation District distribution line located at the Series Capacitor site.
	02/01/12	Under review	T/L	Request for the addition of proposed helicopter construction and maintenance platforms to the description included in the Project Refinements 1 and 2 documents.
	03/05/12	Under review	Red Bluff Loop-ins	Request to revise road locations.
	04/04/12	Under Review	Substation	Red Bluff Substation access road realignment.
<b>USFS</b>				
USFS-1	03/15/12	Under Review	T/L	SBNF engineering modifications (revised disturbance areas).

**TABLE 3**  
**TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS**  
(Updated 04/06/12)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment	Description
#1	07/20/11	07/27/11	Blythe Yard	Use of offsite hydrant and installation of water tank at location adjacent to Blythe Construction Yard
#2	07/28/11	08/04/11	Menifee Yard	Use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, and a flexible hose to supply water to a 4,000 gallon water truck.
#3	08/16/11	08/16/11	Menifee Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, located along the frontage of the Menifee Construction Yard, approximately 200 yards north of previously approved location.
—	09/06/11	Retracted	Devers Yard	Revised use of offsite hydrant, including installation of above ground pipeline and water towers.
#4	09/29/11	09/29/11	T/L	Use of parking areas along primary access road within 400-ft total distance exclusionary fencing locations with exception of sites within the Coachella Valley Preserve.

## NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS

Table 4 provides a summary of reported non-compliance incidents.

**TABLE 4**  
**CPUC NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTS & PROJECT MEMORANDA**  
 (Updated 04/06/12)

Type	Date Issued	Location	Description
<b>CPUC Project Memoranda (PM)</b>			
PM #1	10/28/11	CRS Dist. Line	Construction vehicles leaving marked disturbance limits at two locations along CRS distribution line.
PM #2	01/18/12	Tower 2649/ CR1-2W	DPV2 Construction contractor vehicle driving outside of the approved tower and access road disturbance area limits.
PM #3	03/08/12	Tower 1059 & 1060	Failure to comply with MM B-5 which requires that 300-foot buffers are established around active bird nests. Working within unapproved active nest buffers.
PM #4	04/04/12	Tower 2515, 2520, & 2526	Impacts to desert pavement at Towers 2520 and 2526 by not implementing one of the approved methods stated in the revised Desert Pavement Plan. Impacts to desert tortoise habitat when a road was built near Tower 2515 that was not approved.
<b>CPUC Non-Compliance Reports (NCR)</b>			
NCR #1	01/13/12	Project-wide	Unapproved removal of stick nests from DPV1 Transmission Line towers.

## PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 1.** Tower assembly activities at Tower CR1-2W.



**Figure 2.** Construction of a wet crossing along the spur road to Tower RB1-4E.



**Figure 3.** Foundation drilling at Tower 1062.



**Figure 4.** Crews begin tower assembly at Tower 1061.



**Figure 5.** Rock crushing equipment being delivered to the Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 6.** View southeast towards CRS from primary access road. Note excessive fugitive dust escaping project site.



**Figure 7.** Fuel leak and containment efforts at Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 8.** Desert pavement soils being stockpiled at Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 9.** Water pooling behind check dam at Red Bluff Substation site.



**Figure 10.** Materials at the Meniffee Yard covered with bird netting. The gravel shows sign of being dragged.