Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E ATLANTIC–DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: May 24, 2005

Subject: Weekly Report #5: May 15, 2005 – May 21, 2005

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site May 17th at the Atlantic–Del Mar Project location to monitor construction activities. The weather was overcast and showers occurred late in the day and toward the end of the subject week. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI also served as the project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, ongoing bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation of sediment controls.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work will be done by PG&E. The PG&E crews work Mondays through Thursdays.

Earlier in the month, the CPUC EM, PG&E EI and the PG&E crew foreman walked the area around Poles 3/20 and 3/19. The project description states that no new access roads will be created as part of the project. There is a disturbed area which PG&E wants to use for access which connects the existing access roads to the street and the Pole 3/20 location. On May 17th, the CPUC EM reviewed the Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) request submitted by the PG&E EI for use of the disturbed non-access road area. The area had been surveyed with no resources identified. The CPUC EM approved the TEWS request; however, the start date of usage will be assigned when the construction schedule is finalized. In addition there is no existing access road to provide full access to the Pole 3/19 location. On May 19th the PG&E EI submitted Variance Request #2 which requests allowance of overland travel between the existing access road and the 100-ft by 100-ft Pole 3/19 location area. The area had been evaluated for biological and cultural resources. No sensitive resources occur in the proposed area. The request is still under review.

Prior to construction at all pole locations a CTS survey report must be submitted to the CPUC. A CTS survey report was submitted on May 13th for Pole 2/15 and 2/16 locations. No burrows or CTS aestivation habitat was identified. Per the PG&E EI, biological monitoring occurred in potential habitat for listed species California red legged frog and California Tiger Salamander located approximately 200 feet from Pole 2/16. No species were observed.

The access road near the Pole 2/16 location goes over a culvert which on May 12, the crew Foreman said would be crushed by passing heavy equipment. However it was decided to bridge/reinforce the area over the culvert to allow travel. The CPUC EM confirmed that clean gravel could be brought in to stabilize and level the area in order to lay down steel plates. However, on May 17, the CPUC EM found that a crewman was scraping and grading over the drainage with a backhoe in order to fill in depressions and level the area (see Figure 1). No erosion controls had been installed to protect the drainage. The EM called the PG&E EI and informed him of the problem. He said that he was unaware of what the crewman

was doing and that he would correct the problem. The scraping had created lots of fine sediment and dirt that could run down into the drainage, which is a tributary to Antelope Creek; however, it did not appear that any dirt had impacted the unprotected drainage (see Figure 2). A large pile of gravel was next to the location and rain was forecast to occur over the next few days. The PG&E EI arrived on-site and told the crew Foreman that all of the non-compacted dirt had to be removed and replaced with gravel. He also informed the Foreman that erosion controls need to be installed. By 6:00 pm that day the crew had completely removed the loose dirt and replaced it with gravel. Straw waddles had been staked into the side of the drainage to protect it from erosion (see Figure 3).

On May 17, Pole 2/15 just south of Highway 65 was toured. There exists a vernal pool area east of the location. The PG&E EI had previously installed flagging and the protective sediment fencing and hay bales as outlined in the USFWS Letter of No Effect. The PG&E EI and the PG&E crew were on-site and were dealing with groundwater intrusion in the Pole 2/15 foundation hole. The hole had filled with water and the crews were connecting a hose and pump in order to pump the water out. The CPUC EM had asked the PG&E EI if PG&E had a groundwater discharge permit or had consulted with RWQCB prior to the discharge. The PG&E EI was unable to produce a groundwater discharge permit, but pointed to a line within the storm water discharge permit which talked about "other discharges". The discharge proceeded into a filter fabric lined area which ran down into a drainage area along a building complex (see Figures 4 and 5). The CPUC EM inspected the water and it looked clear and did not have a noticeable odor; however, the CPUC EM expressed concern because the pole foundation hole lies within 50 feet of an underground Kinder Morgan Pipeline. The CPUC EM contacted the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Office and left an inquiry message with a RWQCB representative. Later that day the crew had created a bermed ditch on the 100-ft by 100-ft pole area and had discharged the remaining ground water into it (see Figure 6). Concrete was poured into the foundation hole and the concrete truck washed out into the ditch. The CPUC EM looked at a vegetated area to the east of the pole and found standing water (see Figure 7). The CPUC EM had asked the Foreman about the water and he had said that they had moved some of the water off the access road to the vegetated area. The water came within 12-15 feet of the edge of the sediment fence, which protects the vernal pool area; however, it appeared that flow in that direction had stopped and would not impact the pool.

On May 18th the Essex project manager submitted a California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region Resolution No. R5-2003-008 Approving Waiver of Reports of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for specific types of discharge within the Central Valley Region. In addition she supplied a correspondence record of a conversation with Wendy Wyles at the Central Valley RWQCB who confirmed that if PG&E "contains groundwater from the pole drilling sites in a berm or other containment structure and prevents any discharge to surface water, the waiver is applicable to this project."

During the May 17th tour, the CPUC EM and the PG&E EI toured the Pole 2/17 area. There exists a patch of disturbed non-vegetated soil approximately 50 yards from the pole location. The PG&E EI asked if PG&E could store equipment and spoils there and not disturb the full 100-ft by 100-ft vegetated pole location area. Basically PG&E wants to break up the 10,000 square foot disturbance area which is allowable considering the impact area assessments in the Mitigated Negative Declaration. The CPUC EM concurred.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

On May 13th a CTS survey report was submitted for construction at the Pole 2/15 and 2/16 sites. No burrows or CTS aestivation habitat was identified.

On May 17th, the CPUC EM toured the access road drainage area near Pole 2/16. It was noted that the area had been graded and that no erosion controls were installed around the resource. The PG&E EI was notified and had the problem corrected by the end of the day.

On May 17th, the CPUC EM toured the Pole 2/15 area and noticed groundwater dewatering activities into drainage alongside a building complex. The crew later created a bermed ditch for dewatering purposes.

The CPUC EM observed that all other overhead construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas, unless otherwise noted.

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work including trenching and conduit installation has been contracted to Wilson Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted. Construction will most likely start with the boring operation at Sunset Avenue, which is tentatively scheduled to start in July.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

None

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 1 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date.

TABLE 1
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 5-24-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and over head installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) or Project Memorandums (PMs) have been issued for the project to date.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On May 19th, PG&E submitted Variance Request #2 to allow overland travel from an existing access road to the tower site 3/19. The CPUC EM field validated the request area with the PG&E EI. The area was surveyed and neither biological nor cultural resources were identified. The request is under review.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 5-24-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Under Review	

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

Photographs

Figure 1 – Grading over the access road drainage near Pole 2/16, May 17, 2005.

Figure 2 – Fine dirt created after grading over the access road drainage near Pole 2/16, May 17, 2005.

Figure 3 – Photo after the fine dirt had been removed and replaced with clean gravel over the access road drainage near Pole 2/16, May 17, 2005.

Figure 4 – Dewatering groundwater from the Pole 2/15 foundation hole, May 17, 2005.

Figure 5 – Area where groundwater from the Pole 2/15 foundation hole was directed, May 17, 2005.

Figure 6 – Dewatering ditch created to contain groundwater from the Pole 2/15 foundation hole, May 17, 2005.

Figure 7 – Water discovered near the Pole 2/15 foundation hole, May 17, 2005.