



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E JEFFERSON-MARTIN 230KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

To: Billie Blanchard, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: March 22, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #9: March 13, 2005 – March 19, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Aspen EM Jody Fessler was on site March 15, 16, 17, and 18 along Segments 1, 2, 3, and 5.

SEGMENT 1

Summary of Activity

Construction activities continued during the subject week with excavation of a manhole, placement of a vault, excavation of trenches, and installation of conduit. The weather was sunny at the beginning of the week, turned partly cloudy and overcast towards the end of the week, and started raining Thursday night and into Friday. PG&E Environmental Inspectors (EI) were on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. At least three PG&E EIs were on-site during daytime activities to inspect environmental compliance at the work sites and six to eight biological monitors were located on the west side of Cañada Road to watch for frogs and snakes, and to make sure these species did not enter the work site. The following activities occurred on Segment 1 during the subject week:

1. On Monday, March 14, a PG&E EI found a dead San Francisco garter snake on the west side of Cañada Road in the bike lane around 1:45 PM. The snake was in a traffic control area near an active construction zone that had biological exclusion fencing installed and biological monitors watching for snakes and frogs. The CPUC EM was immediately informed of the situation by a phone call from Opus Environmental and Sheila Byrne of PG&E drove out to the site to positively identify the snake. Sheila confirmed that it appeared to be a San Francisco garter snake. The snake had apparently been hit by bicycle traffic. Dave Johnston of CDFG gave Bill Zukosky of Opus Environmental permission to remove the snake from the road and store it in a freezer until he could pick it up. On Tuesday, Dave Johnston made a site visit to the area where the snake was hit on Segment 1. He spoke with Sheila Byrne and a biological monitor about the snake and how it was found. Dave then took the snake into his possession. During the site visit, Dave met with representatives from PG&E, Opus Environmental, Garcia and Associates, Black & Veatch, and the CPUC EM to discuss the biological exclusion fence and possible additional mitigation measures to protect the San Francisco garter snake. Dave instructed that no new trench be opened on Cañada Road, but that all excavation that had already started could be completed. Dave discussed the snake issues with Mary Hammer of USFWS, and they proposed new mitigation measures for the protection of the San Francisco garter snake to PG&E on Wednesday. PG&E is still reviewing the proposed mitigation measures and discussing the implementation of the mitigation measures internally and with the resource agencies.
2. On March 14, crews started excavating trench between Manhole #4 and Manhole #5 on Cañada Road (Figure 1). The soil from the trenching activities was transported to Ox Mountain landfill in Half Moon Bay (Class 3 facility). Crews shored the trench as they excavated. Excavation of new trench was halted on Tuesday because of the San Francisco garter snake find. Conduit was installed in the trench as the excavation progressed, and cement slurry was poured around the conduit as it was installed. Crews worked through the night shift installing conduit in the trench. A biological monitor

also stayed at the site at night to observe construction, watch for animals, and in case a crew member needed to move their vehicle. On Thursday, crews conducted asphalt paving of the trench and cleanup activities. All materials and traffic controls were removed from the construction area at the end of the day Thursday. During the subject week, 972 feet of conduit was installed.

3. On Monday, March 14, excavation of Manhole #12 on Cañada Road began. Excavation was completed on Monday and shoring was installed in the pit. The manhole vault arrived on Tuesday morning and cement slurry was poured around and over the vault. Paving was done on Wednesday (see Figure 2) and traffic controls were removed from the site on Thursday.
4. On Wednesday, March 16, the CPUC EM was informed that a full cement truck operated by RMC had tipped over on its side along the east side of Cañada Road at approximately Station #93+00 (Figure 3). The truck landed in the middle of a roadside drainage that had standing water. The truck was partly in the SFPUC watershed lands and partly in the San Mateo County right-of-way. The truck spilled about 1 cubic yard of red concrete slurry over a sparsely vegetated area. Some hydraulic fluid also leaked out of the truck and onto the ground. The CPUC EM observed the cement truck being towed away and the cleanup effort that ensued. RMC sent out their environmental representative, Robert Aldenhuisen, to assess the situation and take water and soil samples. Absorbent material was placed over the hydraulic spills. Crews shoveled concrete into two trucks as the CPUC EM inspected each shovel of concrete and soil for amphibians and reptiles. None were spotted. The concrete supplier took the spilled concrete back to their yard for disposal. Sheila Byrne of PG&E was out at the site doing snake surveys south of the cement spill, and came by the spill site in the late afternoon to do an assessment of the damage to the habitat at that location. The RMC cement truck driver had not been through the B&V Safety training or PG&E's Environmental Training for the project. RMC was removed from the project and a new cement supplier will be used for Segment 1.
5. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Cañada Road. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end and in the middle of the construction area along Cañada Road. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night.
6. Construction in the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) on Skyline at the Highway 92 west exit off Highway 280 began Sunday night. Work hours at that location are from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. No manholes were installed this week. Crews focused on trenching activities and the installation of conduit. Recessed trench plates were placed over the trenches during the day.
7. A new baker tank arrived at the southern Caltrans yard on Thursday, March 17. The baker tank will be used for clean water that is encountered while excavating.
8. Biological exclusion fencing (BEF) was upgraded along the segment throughout the week by adding rebar to the bottom of the fabric to weight it down and by adding more staples to keep the fabric tight to the ground.
9. On Thursday, March 17, crews conducted cleanup activities along Cañada Road in preparation for the weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities

On Monday, March 14, a dead San Francisco garter snake was found in the bike lane of Cañada Road within a traffic control area near an active construction. The CPUC EM was immediately notified as well as the resource agencies. Appropriate action was taken by PG&E.

On Wednesday, March 16, a full cement truck operated by RMC flipped over on its side on the east side of Cañada Road at approximately Station #93+00. RMC was removed from the project because they continued to send drivers out to the site, after they had been instructed not to, that had not been safety or environmentally trained. Appropriate action was taken by PG&E.

On Thursday, March 17, the CPUC EM observed some small oil spots around the Segment 1 Staging Yard at 40 Edwards that needed to be cleaned up. The CPUC EM informed the PG&E EI of the issue.

The CPUC EM observed that all other Segment 1 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

SEGMENT 2, UNDERGROUND & OVERHEAD

Summary of Activity

A Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued for the Segment 2 underground portion, not including SFPUC lands, on March 8. However, no NTP has been issued for the overhead component of Segment 2.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the underground section a couple of times during the week. No work was observed along Segment 2. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Segment 2 on March 25 and will be attended by the CPUC EM.

Environmental Compliance Activities

PG&E continues to work with CDFG regarding woodrat removal activities that previously occurred along the overhead portion of Segment 2 without CDFG concurrence. PG&E is also consulting with USFWS and CDFG on the whole overhead segment.

SEGMENT 5

Summary of Activity

Construction activities continued during the subject week with the excavation of more trench and the installation of stub-outs on either side of the previously set manhole vaults. One of the PG&E EIs was on-site to ensure compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. The following activities occurred on Segment 5 during the subject week:

1. Excavation of trench east of Manhole #68 and east of Manhole #69 began on Monday for the installation of conduit. Conduit was installed throughout the week, cement slurry poured, and final paving done on Friday.
2. Crews worked on the stub-outs at Manhole #67, Manhole #69, and Manhole #70 throughout the week (Figure 4). Conduit was installed on either side of the manhole, cement slurry poured, and the areas paved over on Friday.
3. Culverts under Guadalupe Canyon Parkway that had been damaged by trenching activities were repaired per San Mateo County requirements (Figure 5).
4. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Traffic control flaggers were in place at the active construction areas. Traffic cones were left in place blocking off the southern lane. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night. A small night crew stayed on-site at night and did some light work.
5. On Thursday, March 17, an additional baker tank was delivered to the Segment 5 Staging Yard in South San Francisco. There are now two baker tanks at that location.
6. On Friday, March 18, crews conducted cleanup activities along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway in preparation for the weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities

On Monday, March 14, PG&E's EI informed the CPUC EM that some more vegetation was disturbed on the adjacent bank of the road to trenching operations on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. The disturbance occurred from a back-hoe that accidentally swung its bucket into the bank. The CPUC EM inspected the disturbed vegetation and noted that it was minimal and no native plants appeared to have been disturbed. Sheila Byrne of PG&E inspected the site for habitat damage.

Monday night, March 14, PG&E's EI informed the CPUC EM that a hose on a track-hoe broke and spilled some hydraulic fluid into the trench and the road. It was immediately cleaned up and three 5-gallon buckets of contaminated soil were filled and labeled and will be taken to the appropriate facility for disposal.

The CPUC EM observed that all other Segment 5 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP)

Table 1 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Jefferson-Martin Project to date.

TABLE 1
NOTICE TO PROCEED
(Updated 3-22-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	1-10-05	Segment 1, underground only Segment 5, unincorporated San Mateo County only
#2	3-08-05	Segment 2, underground only, not including SFPUC lands
#3	3-11-05	Segment 5, incorporated
#4	3-11-05	Segment 3.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

One Non-Compliance Report (NCR) and three Project Memorandums (PMs) have been issued for the project to date (see Table 2).

TABLE 2
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 3-22-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-up Activities
NCR (Level 3)	2-01-05	Segment 2 – Dismantling and removal of woodrat nests along the overhead route without consulting with CDFG.	PG&E consulting with CDFG on how to proceed.
PM	2-09-05	Segment 1 - Breach of trenching activities into vegetated drainage on east side of Cañada Road between MH #7 and MH #8.	PG&E consulting with CDFG and USFWS on how to proceed.
PM	2-16-05	Segment 5 – Dewatering of Manhole #67 vault pit without consulting with RWQCB on handling of water	PG&E consulting with RWQCB on how to proceed with storm water and groundwater.
PM	3-04-05	Segment 1 – Hummingbird nest found near Manhole #5 on Monday, Feb. 28, and not reported to CPUC or CDFG until Thursday, March 3.	PG&E discussing better communication between PG&E and subcontractors.

VARIANCE REQUESTS

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 3-22-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	1-14-05	40 Edwards Court, Burlingame – Paved parking lot that is fenced to be used as a staging yard.	Approved	1-18-05
2	2-04-05	Staging yard, Airport Boulevard & North Access Road., South San Francisco.	Approved	2-09-05
3	2-22-05	Change compliance timing for Mitigation Measure U-1c, corrosion, from pre-construction to during construction.	Approved	3-04-05

UPCOMING ITEMS

PG&E holds weekly meetings to review issues and upcoming events for Segment 1 on Friday (12:00 p.m., San Mateo BV office) and Tuesday (8:00 a.m., Hayward BV office), and a weekly meeting for Segment 5 on Monday (3:00 p.m., South SF Mueller/InfraSource Staging Yard) and Tuesdays (9:00 a.m., Hayward BV office).

As a result of the February 28 multi-agency meeting with PG&E, Draft Communication Protocols were issued to the meeting participants on March 15. No comments were received on the Communication Protocols and the protocols are now considered finalized for implementation.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS

Dave Johnston of CDFG conducted a site visit of Segment 1 on Tuesday, March 15, to review San Francisco garter snake mitigation measures, as well as to discuss bird nesting issues for Segment 1 and Segment 5.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews installing conduit on Cañada Road North of Edgewood intersection, Segment 1, March 16, 2005.



Figure 2 – Manhole #12 paved over, Cañada Road, Segment 1, March 16, 2005.



Figure 3 – Area where concrete truck flipped over and spilled concrete (red material) and hydraulic fluid along side of Cañada Road, Segment 1, March 16, 2005.



Figure 4 – Crews working at stub-outs on east side of Manhole #67 on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, Segment 5, March 16, 2005.



Figure 5 – Crews fixing culvert in trench east of Manhole #68 on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, Segment 5, March 17, 2005.