



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

### **PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC

**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** January 29, 2003

**Subject:** Weekly Report #35: January 20, 2002 – January 26, 2003

**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jody Fessler

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

##### **Tuesday, January 21:**

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit around noon at pole foundation #1(a) where crews had finished the foundation pit and were setting in the rebar structure in preparation to pour the cement foundation. The CPUC EM was informed that they will start digging foundation pit 2 tomorrow. At pole foundation #5(a) on the Catella property, crews were starting to pour the cement foundation. Pole foundation #5(b) has already been completed (see Figure 1). The CPUC EM noted that the topsoil removed for the access road was being covered with plastic sheeting and sandbags were in place to hold the plastic down.

Later, the CPUC EM drove along McCarthy Boulevard and noted that tree topping between pole foundations #16 and #17 has been completed.

At the Los Esteros Substation, crews were working on erecting aluminum pole structures in the southeast corner of the property. Crews were also working on installing an underground pipe. The CPUC EM spoke with Jeff Jensen of OCI who informed her that the Operations Building is almost complete. The CPUC EM noted that the site was neat and clean.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM drove the underground route from the south end of Fremont Boulevard to the west end of Cushing Parkway. Crews were splicing cable underground in man-hole vault #3. Crews were observed proofing conduit from man-hole vault #9 to man-hole vault #10 on the right line. One of the bottom conduits (S1) on the right line (at Station 142+20) did not proof and had to be dug up by crews using jack-hammers to break through the cement (see Figure 2). The CPUC EM observed crews excavating a trench north of pole foundation #10(L) on the left line in order to do tie-in work from the underground segment to the overhead segment. At the west end of Cushing Parkway, crews had poured cement slurry in the right line trench from man-hole vault #1 to pole foundation #9(a). Storm drains were well protected along the route. Some dirt on Fremont Boulevard coming from the ingress/egress point to the staging yard on the corner of Cushing Parkway and Fremont Boulevard should be cleaned up.

##### **Wednesday, January 22:**

A coordination conference call was conducted with PG&E, Essex, and Aspen representatives. Topics discussed included project schedule, pending property owner and permitting agreements, CDFG coordination and crew training regarding burrowing owl sightings near the 115kV outlet route, and pending pre-construction compliance for Notice to Proceed #4 (Trimble to Montague).

##### **Friday, January 24:**

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of pole foundation 1(a) and (b) in the late morning. Crews have completed both pole foundations at that location. Equipment being stored in the area will be moved on Monday and the area will be cleaned up. Pole foundations 2, 3, 4, 5(a), and 5(b) have also been completed. At pole foundations 9(a) and (b) at the west end of Cushing Parkway, crews were paving part

of the underground segment to the overhead segment. Another crew was installing the steel poles on foundations 9(a) and (b) with a crane (see Figure 3). At pole foundations 10(L) and (R) at the south end of Fremont Boulevard, the crew was just wrapping things up for the week. The left line trench is still open from pole foundation 10(L) to about 50 feet north of the foundation.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the field west of the Los Esteros Substation site in the early afternoon where the 115kV upgrade will be placed. The CPUC EM met with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) who was staking out the area with signs saying “No Project Access” where the burrowing owls have been seen in the past. No burrowing owls were observed at the time of the site visit.

The CPUC EM then conducted a site visit of the Tri-state Drilling staging area in the City of Alviso. There was some equipment being stored outside of the staging area, but it was undetermined if it was Tri-state Drilling’s equipment or someone else’s. The Essex EI was going to check up on that information.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the San Jose Water Treatment Plant’s property. Crews were working on creating pads for pole foundations 24, 25, and 26 (see Figure 4). Trees were being topped in the area to create a 20-foot wire clearance.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site where crews were working on installing aluminum pipes connecting to the insulators. Another crew was working on completing the Operations Building. Crews were loading dump trucks with soil from the site and delivering it to the San Jose Water Treatment Plant for the pole foundation pads.

The CPUC EM then drove the underground segment of the project and noted that everything was neat and clean.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On January 21, the CPUC EM noted that there was some dirt on Fremont Boulevard coming from the ingress/egress point to the staging yard on the corner of Cushing Parkway and Fremont Boulevard. The CPUC EM observed that all other sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

On January 24, the CPUC EM observed that the project was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

No NTPS were issued during the subject week.

**Variance Requests:**

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 01-29-03)**

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	6/11/02	Disposal of excavated material, corner of Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway, Fremont.	Completed	6/11/02
2	6/13/02	Material/equipment yard, 42400 Boyce Road, Fremont.	Completed	See Underground NTP
3				
4	6/26/02	Reduce biological buffer from 250 to 15-feet at existing structure, Los Esteros Substation.	Completed; 25-foot buffer approved.	7/5/02
5	7/9/02	Extra work space area for Line F bore, west of Fremont Blvd.	Completed	7/12/02
6	9/6/02	Change the location of the permanent access road to the Los Esteros Substation.	Completed	9/23/02
7	10/23/02	Use of a portion of the Mervyn's property for equipment and material storage for underground construction.	Completed	11/12/02
8	10/23/02	Use of a laydown yard at 800 Spreckles Ave., City of Alviso, for equipment and material storage for overhead construction.	Completed	10/31/02



Figure 1  
Pole Foundations 5 Being Built – Catella Property  
January 21, 2003



Figure 2  
Proofing Problems on Right Line Trench North of Man-hole Vault #10  
January 21, 2003



Figure 3  
Poles 9(a) and (b) being Erected at West End of Cushing Parkway  
January 24, 2003



Figure 4  
Crew Creating Pad for Pole Foundation #25 at San Jose Water Treatment Plant  
January 24, 2003