



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 28, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #39: February 17, 2003 – February 23, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Summary of Activity:

Monday, February 17:

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the overhead segment from poles #1 through #9 around noon. At poles #1(a) and (b), #2, #3, #4 and #5(a) and (b), no new construction or construction crews were observed working at these sites during the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM noted that the areas were neat and clean. The CPUC EM then conducted a site visit of poles #9(a) and (b) at the west end of Cushing Parkway. No crews were observed working at that location at the time of the site visit. Next, the CPUC EM conducted site visits of pole #7 and #8, which have been completely erected with the arms and temporary travelers attached. Noted that these areas were neat and clean. At poles #6(a) and (b), crews were doing some grounding work and emptying out water from a plugged-up storm drain into another storm drain. They will fix the plugged-up storm drain.

The CPUC EM drove the underground segment in the early afternoon. Crews were splicing cable down in man-hole vaults #4 on the right line, pulling cable from man-hole vaults #5 to #6 on the left line, splicing cable in man-hole vault #7 on the right line, and heating cable in man-hole vault #8 on the right line. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit at the south end of Fremont Boulevard. Poles #10 R and L have been erected with arms connected to the poles. The CPUC EM noted that the area was neat and clean.

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) and asked if crews were working on the King & Lyon's property. He said they had been out there earlier doing some preliminary work. Friday, crews installed a silt fence around pole area #12(a) and (b) (see Figure 1). The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that they spotted a mouse (rodent) near the work area and called him to come look at it. The Essex EI took a picture and is waiting to hear from the salt marsh harvest mouse expert on identification. The contractor wants to build a pole foundation pad at that location tomorrow. The CPUC EM met with the Essex EI mid-afternoon at the King & Lyon's property and looked at pole #12(a) and (b) area and the silt fence installation.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit between pole foundations #16 and #17(a) and (b) on the levee along Coyote Creek. A rookery of great blue herons (at least 10 nests and 8 birds) is established at that location, as well as a couple of white-tailed kites that were perching on trees in the area. The Essex EI was going to check into the specifics of the Migratory Bird Act and nesting issues for the great blue heron. The wire between poles #17(a) and (b) and 18(a) and (b) is at least 300 feet away from the rookery.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation and spoke with Jeff Jensen of OCI. He informed her that some of the crews were off today because of the holiday. Crews were unloading some steel poles in the northeast corner of the site and stringing wire between steel pole structures. A worker was spreading out soil with a front loader at the northern end of the site in order to dry it out more quickly. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean.

In the late afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted another site visit of the underground work along Fremont Boulevard and behind the business park. Crews at man-hole vault #8 were still heating cable. Crews were cleaning-up and putting equipment away at man-hole vault #7 and crews were gone from man-hole vaults #6, #5, and #3. Crews were still working at man-hole vault #4.

Tuesday, February 18:

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of poles #1(a) and (b), #2, #3, #4, and #5 in the morning. No new construction was observed at these locations.

Next, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of pole area #12 on the King & Lyon's property. Crews were dumping soil and leveling it out at the site to create a foundation pad. The CPUC EM called the Essex EI, who was not at the site, regarding the construction work. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that he would be over to the site in a few minutes. The CPUC EM then conducted a site visit of pole area #11 on the King & Lyon's property. The crew was finishing insertion of the steel and rebar in pole foundation pit #11 (see Figure 2). Crews were staying within their work area. The CPUC EM conducted another site visit of pole area #12 (see Figure 3) and met with Essex EI and Project Manager, Megan Bracker. They had not heard back regarding the identification of the mouse that was spotted on Friday, but are assuming that it is a salt marsh harvest mouse. The CPUC EM observed that construction at that site was being kept within the work area.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation in the early afternoon. Crews were working on aluminum pipe installation and pole erection on the foundations in the southeast corner of the property. Crews were loading extra soil from the northern area of the site into dump trucks that were transporting the soil to the King & Lyon's property for pole foundation pad #12. Another crew was stringing wire between steel pole structures. The CPUC EM observed that the site was drying out and that it was neat and clean. No burrowing owls were observed.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's property at pole foundation site #21. Crews were waiting for cement trucks to arrive and pour the pole foundation. Crews were staying within their work area.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mervyn's staging yard. Crews were cleaning up and had been pulling cable between man-hole vaults #8 and #9. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean and that the storm drains were sand-bagged. The CPUC EM then conducted a site visit of poles #10R and L at the south end of Fremont Boulevard. Crews were cleaning up the area where they had been working on tie-in construction from the underground segment to the overhead. Later, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of man-hole vault #8 on the right line where crews were finishing up pulling cable. Next, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of man-hole vault #7 on the right line. Crews were splicing cable. Conducted a site visit of man-hole vaults #4 and #5 where crews were splicing cable.

In the late afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of poles #9(a) and (b) at the west end of Cushing Parkway. No construction was observed at the time of the site visit and the area was neat and clean. Next, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of poles #8 and #7. No construction was observed at the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of poles #6(a) and (b), where the crew was just leaving for the day. They had been working on fixing a plugged drain near one of the pole foundations. A pile of soil and a pile of gravel was being stored temporarily in the parking lot near the poles. A nearby storm drain was not protected with sediment control. The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex EI regarding the issue and he informed her that he would have them protect the storm drain from sediment.

Environmental Compliance:

On February 17, the CPUC EM observed that the project was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

On February 18, the CPUC EM observed that a storm drain near pole area #6(a) and (b) was not protected from sediment and informed the Essex EI about this issue. The CPUC EM observed that all other sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

On February 19, the CPUC EM received a voice message from the Essex EI in the morning informing her that the storm drain at pole area #6(a) and (b) had been protected from sediment. The Essex EI also informed her that the soil pile and the gravel pile would be removed shortly and the area cleaned-up.

Essex informed Aspen Environmental Group that PG&E would be submitting a letter of notification of an endangered species (salt marsh harvest mouse – Federal Endangered/State Endangered) to the USACE for the sighting of the mouse at the King & Lyon’s property near pole area #12(a) and (b) on February 14, 2003.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

No NTPS were issued during the subject week.

Variance Requests:

On February 4, Variance Request #9 was submitted to install ground wire peaks and string optical ground wire (OPGW) from the 230kV towers being built as part of the NESJ Project to the Newark Substation utilizing the existing Metcalf to Newark/Tesla to Newark No. 2 transmission line easement. This request was approved by CPUC on February 18.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 02-28-03)

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
9	02/04/03	Install ground wire peaks and string optical ground wire (OPGW) from the 230kV towers being built as part of the NESJ Project to the Newark Substation utilizing the existing Metcalf to Newark/Tesla to Newark No. 2 transmission line easement.	Completed	02/18/03



Figure 1
Silt Fence around Pole Area #12(a) and (b) on the King & Lyon's Property
February 17, 2003



Figure 2
Tri-state Drilling at Pole area #11 on the King & Lyon's Property
February 18, 2003



Figure 3
Appian Crews Creating Pole Foundation Pad at Pole area #12(a) and (b)
on the King & Lyon's Property
February 18, 2003