



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 17, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #46: April 7, 2003 – April 13, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jody Fessler

### **Summary of Activity:**

#### **Saturday, April 12:**

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit at the north end of the project segment in the morning. No crews were working at poles #1 through #9 at the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM observed that the work sites were neat and clean.

At Zanker Road adjacent to Highway 237, crews were stringing OPGW lines across Zanker Road on the top of the 115kV upgrade towers. The tower on the west side of Zanker Road is close to an active red-tailed hawk's nest and is within the Raptor Nesting Buffer required by CDFG (see Figure 1). Permission to work there was granted by CDFG as long as the hawk was not disturbed by the activity and there was a raptor specialist on-site. At the time of the site visit, the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) and a raptor specialist from Albion Environmental were on-site observing the hawk's activities. At around 12:25 PM, it started to rain heavily. The CPUC EM stayed at the site for a couple of hours and observed the hawk until most of the work was done at that location. The CPUC EM spoke with the Albion Environmental monitor who informed her that the hawk was displaying the same kind of behavior it has for the last few weeks. The raptor specialist thought it looked like the hawk might have nestlings in the nest already.

Crews were also pulling the OPGW at the pole structure just on the east side of Zanker Road, in the field west of the Los Esteros Substation. The Albion Environmental monitor informed the CPUC EM that she and the Essex EI had seen a couple of burrowing owls out in the field earlier in the morning and that the pair is nesting there. The burrowing owl nest is outside of the buffer zone. Crews were staying within the project work area and the sites were neat and clean. The CPUC EM observed a red-tailed hawk perching on a wood telephone pole in the middle of the field.

At the Los Esteros Substation, crews had been working outside before it started raining (see Figure 2). Crews were still working in the Operations Building at the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM noted that the ground had been smoothed out in preparation for gravel to be laid. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit along McCarthy Boulevard. No crews were observed working at poles #17 L and R, #16, #15 L and R, or #14 L and R.

At the King and Lyons' property, crews were working up on pole #13 with the use of a boom truck (see Figure 3). Crews were staying within their work area and the site was observed to be neat and clean.

Along the underground segment, splicing crews were working at man-hole vault #2 along Cushing Parkway. Splicing crews were also working at man-hole vaults #6 and #9. Traffic signs and cones were placed around the work areas. At the Mervyn's staging area, crews were working at that location and the area was observed to be neat and clean. The sandbags that were placed around the storm drains were holding up well in the rain.

At the south end of Fremont Boulevard, cones were placed around poles #10 L and R. A boom truck was at the location. Crews were observed working on the riser for structure 10 R.

No work was being conducted at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's property.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On April 12, the CPUC EM observed that all sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

CPUC issued the NTP for the Trimble to Montague 115kV upgrade on April 8.

**Variance Requests:**

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

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 04-17-03)**

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  
OPGW Stringing on West Side of Zanker Road Near Red-tailed Hawk's Nest  
April 12, 2003



Figure 2  
Los Esteros Substation Site  
April 12, 2003



Figure 3  
ILB Crews Working at Pole #13 on the King & Lyon's Property  
April 12, 2003