



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM**

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC

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

**Date:** September 24, 2002

**Subject:** Weekly Report #17: September 16, 2002 – September 22, 2002

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

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

##### **Tuesday, September 17:**

The CPUC EM conducted several site visits of Fremont Boulevard construction during the evening. At the U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore site on left line, both the entry pit and the exit pit were complete. The bore crew had not arrived yet to start the bore. Both of the pits continue to be dewatered. At man-hole vault #5, crews were working on the left line and backfilling the entry and exit trenches with cement slurry. Crews were also pot-holing south of vault #5 to locate utilities. At man-hole vault #10 at the south end of Fremont Boulevard, the left line man-hole vault was paved over and crews were starting to cut a trench north on Fremont Boulevard with the asphalt grinder machine. Another crew was starting to excavate the right line pit for man-hole vault #10 at approximate Station 143+60. Crews were shoring the pit with support plates as they excavated.

The CPUC EM also conducted a site visit of the CalTrans right-of-way at the intersection of Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway. Crews were starting to trench in the area on the left line and were working on pouring cement slurry and paving the right line.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation in the early evening. The exclusion tape on the south side of the burrowing owl buffer zone had blown over because of strong winds. The CPUC EM called the Essex EI and informed him of this. He has had to fix it twice now in the last day because of strong winds. The Essex EI said he would be out to fix it this evening and that they are going to put up a stronger exclusion fence soon. The CPUC EM observed that the Los Esteros Substation site had been well watered.

The CPUC EM met with Northern Linelayers Safety Coordinator and the Essex EI around 9:30 PM. Northern Linelayers Safety Coordinator informed the CPUC EM and the Essex EI that he had received a call from one of the dump truck drivers who said that some of the exclusion tape at the Los Esteros Substation site had come down again. The CPUC EM conducted another site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site with the Essex EI. Some of the exclusion tape around the burrowing owl buffer zone on the south and east sides had blown down again. There was also some non-environmental exclusion tape that had come down where the dump trucks were dumping causing the drivers to be confused about where they were supposed to be dumping. The Essex EI remained at the site to repair the environmental exclusion tape. The CPUC EM was informed that Essex has recommended to construction management that they get something made of stronger material to be used as the environmental exclusion fencing/tape.

##### **Wednesday, September 18:**

The Essex Project Manager informed Vida Strong, Aspen/CPUC Project Manager, that PG&E and Essex have informed construction management at the Los Esteros Substation site that a sturdier exclusion fence/tape needs to be installed immediately for the burrowing owl buffer area. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site in the afternoon. A crew member from OCI was finishing the new

exclusion fencing/tape around the burrowing owl's burrow. Metal T-stakes were installed with three strands of "caution/keep out" tape wrapped around them. The burrowing owl buffer zone is now *very* clearly marked. The CPUC EM observed the burrowing owl by its burrow adjacent to the cement foundation from the old building structure that was demolished. The CPUC EM also observed foundation work taking place at the Los Esteros Substation site on the west and south sides of the property. Soil deposited on the northeastern side of the property, from last night's trenching activities on Fremont Boulevard, was being spread out and compacted. The site was well watered to keep the dust down to a minimum. In addition, oil leaks from equipment and vehicles were being contained.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Fremont Boulevard work in the evening. The bore crew had still not arrived to start U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore on the left line. The bore pits continue to be dewatered, and traffic controls remain around the bore pits. At man-hole vault #5 just south of U.S.D. Lagoon #4 on Fremont Boulevard, traffic controls remained around man-hole vault #5 on the left line even though it appeared to be completed. At man-hole vault #10 at the south end of Fremont Boulevard, the hole on the left line has been installed and paved over. Crews are still working on conduit tie-ins north of the vault box and have trench plates over the trench. The pit for man-hole vault #10 on the right line is ready for vault installation which will take place tonight or early Thursday morning. There were traffic controls in place around the pit including: k-rails, fencing and cones. Construction (trenching) on Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway in the CalTrans right-of-way will not begin until after 8 PM tonight according to CalTrans regulations. The CPUC EM observed that Fremont Boulevard was clean and that no oil leaks were observed on equipment and vehicles along the project site.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

On September 17, the CPUC EM observed that the environmental exclusion tape around the burrowing owl at the Los Esteros Substation site had blown down several times that day. Informed Essex that a violation of the 160-foot buffer zone would be seriously considered by the CPUC. Observed that all other construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and permitting requirements.

On September 18, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and permitting requirements.

#### **Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

No NTPs were issued during the subject week.

#### **Variance Requests:**

On September 6, Variance Request #6 was submitted to change the location of the permanent access road to the Los Esteros Substation. Inquiries regarding the request were made to Essex on September 12 and 16, and information was submitted in response on September 13 and 18. CPUC approved Variance Request #6 on September 23.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 9-24-02)**

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