



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 30, 2002
Subject: Weekly Report #22: October 21, 2002 – October 27, 2002
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Summary of Activity:

Wednesday, October 23:

The CPUC EM conducted two site visits of the Los Esteros Substation site in the evening. The ground had been well watered to control dust. The foundation work continues on the southwest side of the property. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) said there had been rumors lately that the burrowing owl had been hanging around the site again. The CPUC EM and the Essex EI drove out towards the west end of the site. The CPUC EM observed a barn owl perched on one of the excavator machines on the west side of the property. No burrowing owls were spotted. The CPUC EM and the Essex EI looked around the site for fresh ground squirrel burrows and observed several.

Throughout the evening, the CPUC EM conducted several site visits of construction along the underground segment of the project. At U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore, the CPUC EM observed that concrete slurry had been poured around the conduit in the entry bore pit (south pit). Crews were getting ready to backfill the entry pit. Later in the night, the CPUC EM observed crews backfilling the entry pit with engineered gravel. Right off of Fremont Boulevard near West Warren, the CPUC EM observed trenching activities on the left line from approximate Station 66+50 to 67+00. Work in that area was going very slowly because of lots of underground water and utilities. The crew was having a hard time shoring the sides of the trench because the soil was very wet and sandy. Later in the night, the CPUC EM observed that the crew was using a water truck to suck-up water from the trench. The water truck was leaking extensively, so the CPUC EM requested that they bring in their portable baker tank and use that instead. The Essex EI had already requested that they do that and it was supposedly on the way to the site. The CPUC EM also conducted a site visit of man-hole vault #9 where crews were slowly trenching south of the man-hole vault on the right line at approximate Station 127+00 to 127+30. Work was going slow at this location as well because of some underground utilities. Crews were also working on the tie-ins to the man-hole vaults #9. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Fremont Boulevard where it crosses Agua Caliente Creek (Line F). P&P crews were grading down some of the road pavement with their asphalt grinder and were creating a lot of dust. The watering system on that machine does not work well and consistently creates a lot of dust. The CPUC EM called the Essex EI to come take a look at the construction. By the time he arrived a couple of minutes later, the asphalt grinder machine was working better and was not creating as much dust. P&P crews were going to pave over a small section of the road at that location.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit with the Essex EI of the proposed staging area (laydown yard) for the overhead segment of the NESJ Project. The proposed area is a flat partially graveled parking space in an industrial/commercial yard at the end of a subdivision on the edge of the bay. On the way to the site, the CPUC EM observed a burrowing owl perching on a freeway sign on the Zanker Road Exit off of 237 West.

Thursday, October 24:

In the early afternoon, the CPUC EM met with Vida Strong of Aspen Environmental Group and discussed PG&E Northeast San Jose Project issues. The CPUC EM took Vida Strong on a site tour of the PG&E Northeast San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project's underground construction route.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit in the afternoon of the trenching location at approximate Station 66+50 to 67+00 where crews were having a hard time working the night before due to underground water and utilities. Construction management from Black & Veatch and OCI were at the site doing an inspection. The CPUC EM was informed later that P&P's crew hit and broke a water line to Vince's Café yesterday, which shut down the restaurant all day. Vince's Café will be looking for compensation.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the proposed staging area (laydown yard) for the overhead segment with Tom Reggin of Tri-State Drilling at 800 Spreckles Avenue in the City of Alviso. The area they want to use as a staging area (laydown yard) is approximately 200 feet by 200 feet and is highly disturbed, partially graveled and flat.

In the evening, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site. The CPUC EM walked around the whole site and looked for the burrowing owl but did not see it anywhere at the site. Several black phoebes were observed at the site. The southwest corner of the site was very dusty. The CPUC EM informed the Essex EI of this and he said it might be because the burrowing owl was spotted in that corner of the property today (he observed it as well as others) and that the water truck driver was probably told not to go near it. The Essex EI said he would talk to construction management about watering down that part of the property.

Later in the night, the CPUC EM conducted site visits of the underground construction along the Fremont Boulevard route. First, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of trenching activities at approximate Station 67+00 to 68+00 on the left line. Crews had gotten through a lot of the area that had underground utilities and are trenching at a faster pace now. Next, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of man-hole vault #9 where crews were excavating the trench on the left line heading north from the vault at approximate Station 125+50 to 125+00. Another crew was pouring cement slurry in the right line trench heading south of the vault from approximate Station 127+00 to 127+50. Lastly, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore where crews were still back-filling the entry bore pit.

Environmental Compliance:

On October 23, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

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Notices to Proceed (NTP):

No NTPs were issued during the subject week. A conference call between PG&E, Essex, and Aspen representatives was held on October 22 to discuss pre-construction compliance status for the tower installation NTP. A draft NTP for 230kV tower construction was forwarded to CPUC on October 30.

Variance Requests:

On October 23, Variance Request #7 and #8 were submitted for CPUC review. Variance Request 7 proposes the use of a portion of the Mervyn's property for equipment and material storage for underground construction. Variance Request 8 proposes use of a laydown yard in the City of Alviso for equipment and material storage for overhead construction. Recommendations for both Variance Requests #7 and #8 were forwarded to CPUC on October 28.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 10-23-02)

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
7	10/23/02	Use of a portion of the Mervyn's property for equipment and material storage for underground construction.	10/28 – Recommendation to CPUC	
8	10/23/02	Use of a laydown yard at 800 Spreckles Ave., City of Alviso, for equipment and material storage for overhead construction.	10/28 – Recommendation to CPUC	