



Aspen

Environmental Group

Project Memorandum PG&E Northeast San Jose

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Christopher Meyer, Lead Environmental Monitor
Date: July 24, 2002
Re: Weekly Report #8: July 15 2002 – July 21, 2002
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Summary of Activity:

On Tuesday, July 16, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the PG&E – NESJ overhead sections with Bob Bonderud of PG&E, Anne Sweet of Aspen EG, Megan Bracker and Kham Slater of Essex, and an OCI representative. We started the tour on the WPCP property and met with John Gibbs of the City of San Jose. We looked at the proposed locations for poles #18 - #26 and John Gibbs made it very clear that the WPCP does not want the pole structures in their sledge ponds because they constantly have large equipment moving the sledge around to assist in drying. He would prefer the pole structures to be on the fence line between the WPCP road and the SCVWD levee road. If pole structures are placed along the fence line, there will be some pine trees and eucalyptus trees that will have to be removed. According to John Gibbs, these trees were planted by WPCP about 10 years ago. Bob Bonderud said he would speak with the SCVWD about having the poles placed adjacent to the SCVWD levee. Pole structure #17 is proposed along McCarthy Ranch Road near a water treatment plant. Between pole structures #17 and #16 there are some pine trees that will need to be removed. Around poles #15 and #14, a variance may be required to allow enough room to pull wire. Pole structure #13 is a single pole. There is pickle weed (habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse) within the ROW between #13 and #11. Construction crews will need to stay on the dirt road and in disturbed areas. A red-tailed hawk was observed flying into an oak tree with a large nest in it. The oak tree is between #12 and #11. Pole structure #5 is in the Pacific Commons preserve adjacent to the weigh station on Interstate 880. Two routes into the preserve were discussed: one through the back of the business park and one from the weigh station. Access from the weigh station would have less of an impact and Bob Bonderud said he would look into getting a permit from CalTrans. Bob is also waiting to get a response back from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the wetlands delineation. The grass in the preserve has been mown.

On Wednesday, July 17, CPUC EM conducted site visit of Los Esteros sub-station site in the evening. A couple of the baby house finches have hatched on the south side of the building right outside of the door. Some of the plastic barriers that were put up in the windows have partly come off. CPUC EM spoke to Essex EI about this and he said they would repair the barrier.

The CPUC EM conducted site visit of Cushing Parkway during the night shift trenching operation. Crews were trenching north, laying pipe, pouring slurry, and asphaltting the road. At the end of Cushing Parkway, crews were installing a tie-in vault and were preparing to do some backfilling with soil. CPUC EM noticed some sandbags near a storm drain at the end of Cushing Parkway that had been run over and were broken open. Essex EI said he would take care of them.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) with the Essex EI and the Essex Project Manager. Bore construction set-up was taking place and crews were working on getting the dewatering system ready. The CPUC EM and Essex EI discussed equipment not being within 100 feet of the creek and also the installation of some erosion control (straw wattles) on the creek side of the dewatering pipes. Later in the evening, CPUC EM observed two black-crown night herons in the creek.

On Thursday, July 18, CPUC EM received phone call from Essex EI in the morning saying that there was non-compliance activity at the Los Esteros sub-station site. Crews had dumped soil on the north side of the building structure along the fence and only left a 15-foot buffer zone on that side of the building instead of the flagged 25-foot buffer zone. The Essex EI caught them in the process of doing this and had them stop the activity immediately. Essex Environmental issued a non-compliance for the activity. The 25-foot buffer zone had been clearly marked and there had been many conversations with construction management regarding the buffer zone. The CPUC EM informed Vida Strong and Christopher Meyer of Aspen Environmental Group about the non-compliance activity of soil being deposited within the 25-foot buffer zone. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Los Esteros sub-station site in the afternoon and took photographs where soil was dumped within the buffer zone on the north side of the building along the fence. The CPUC EM called Essex EI and discussed the non-compliance issue. The CPUC did not issue a project Non-Compliance Report, in this instance, due to the appropriate action by Essex Environmental. Nonetheless, serious concern remain over the construction contractor's disregard of written measures by the CPUC and verbal instruction by the Essex EI. This concern centers on earlier statements by construction personnel that the 25-foot buffer would leave only approximately 5 feet of working room and preclude any work in the area.

The CPUC EM informed Essex EI that there might be a couple more nests on the east side of the building in the eaves as well as the thistles that had not been discovered previously. The CPUC EM observed two baby house finches inside the building structure above the south door that appeared to be about ready to fledge the nest. Nest outside of the south door has what looked to be three baby house finches with their eyes still closed. The CPUC EM and Lead EM will review the area for any undiscovered nests prior to the demolition of the building.

The CPUC EM conducted site visit of Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) in the early afternoon where crews were getting bore drill into place in the pit. The CPUC EM spoke with the Northern Line Layers Safety Coordinator about the OSHA visit. He said the OSHA visit went well and there were no problems with the site. The CPUC EM conducted site visit of Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) bore in the late afternoon. No crews were observed working. Some boring had been completed. Sandbags had been placed at the seams of the dewatering pipes. No straw wattles had been placed along the creek yet. A red-tailed hawk was observed flying over the adjacent field. The generators for the water pumps and lights were still placed within a hundred feet of the creek. CPUC EM spoke with Essex EI about this and he said he had spoken with the contractors about moving them back from the creek. He also informed the CPUC EM that the generators have a secondary containment system built-in. Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that he sent an email to Dave Turkington of Northern Line Layers about placing straw wattles along the creek and had not yet received a response. The CPUC EM conducted site visit in the late evening where crews were working on setting up some equipment.

The CPUC EM conducted site visit of Cushing Parkway in the afternoon. Road was very clean. Sandbags around the storm drain at the end of Cushing Parkway (north end) had been repaired and an orange cone was placed near them to prevent trucks from running over them and breaking them open. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Cushing Parkway as the night crew began setting up for work and noticed some sandbags and straw wattles around a storm drain near Laguna Creek that crews had left. The CPUC EM spoke to Essex EI about this and he said he would have them removed. The CPUC EM asked Essex EI about the plugged storm drain at Laguna Creek. The Essex EI said crews used a vac-truck to suck a great quantity of old debris out of the drain, but that it may still be partially plugged. The Essex EI said it was probably a pre-existing problem and that he spoke to construction management about notifying the city about the problem. Trenching and paving work continued north on Cushing Parkway. Construction was in compliance with mitigation measures.

Environmental Compliance:

On July 18, there was non-compliance activity at the Los Esteros sub-station site where crews dumped soil along the fence on the north side of the building structure within the 25-foot buffer zone. Essex Environmental issued a non-compliance to construction management.

Erosion control measures have not been fully implemented at the Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) bore site. Essex Environmental is following up on this issue with construction management. The CPUC EM reviewed the issue with the CPUC Lead EM and informed the Essex EM that the conditions of the variance approval need to be met prior to any further construction activities.

According to mitigation measures in Variance #5, storage of equipment needs to be 100 feet back from Agua Caliente Creek (Line F). A couple of the generators for the water pumps at this site were within 100 feet of the creek. A previous conversation with construction personnel indicated that they would be moved. Essex Environmental is following up with construction personnel about getting the generators moved back from the creek.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

None issued

Variance Requests:

None received