



# **Aspen**

*Environmental Group*

## **Project Memorandum – PG&E Northeast San Jose**

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Project Manager  
**Date:** August 13, 2002  
**Re:** Weekly Report #11: August 5, 2002 – August 11, 2002  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jody Fessler

### **Summary of Activity:**

On Wednesday, August 7, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site. In response to the Essex Biologist's report that all birds have fledged from the nests on and in immediate proximity to the existing building on site, the CPUC EM observed bird activity at the building structure for a couple of hours. Mourning doves and American goldfinches were observed in the vicinity of the building, but no active nests or birds were observed flying in or out of building structure or on the roof. Some starlings were observed flying over and perching on the nearby fence. No other bird species were observed at the building structure location. In accordance with approved Variance Request #4, building dismantling was authorized; scheduled to begin August 12.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Cushing Parkway in the evening and observed that the west bound lanes merged into one lane near the new man-hole vault at Station 15+ 00 without any warning. The CPUC EM notified the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) of the potential safety issue, who in turn called the contractor's Safety Coordinator. Subsequently, cones were set up in both directions as well as traffic signs. At Station 15+ 00 on Cushing Parkway, crews were starting to dewater the man-hole vault pit and working on tie-ins.

The CPUC EM also conducted a site visit of the Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) bore in the evening. Crews were excavating a new bore pit for the second bore at approximately Station 45+ 00 on Fremont Boulevard. Traffic signs, cones, and personnel were in place where the road goes to one lane next to bore pit. The CPUC EM observed that the area was somewhat dusty and notified the Essex EI, who in turn said he would speak to construction management. Later in the night, crews were still excavating soil and putting in pit supports. The dust problem had not yet been resolved when the CPUC EM left the site.

The CPUC EM also conducted a site visit later in the evening of the man-hole vault at Station 47+ 00 south of the new bore pit on Fremont Boulevard at Line F. Crews were having problems getting one of their asphalt grinder machines started at that location. It was billowing out dust and smoke for about 20 minutes.

The CPUC EM observed the Essex EI taking noise samples in front of the Marriot Hotel on Fremont Boulevard. He sampled for about 20 minutes and noted the minimum, maximum, and average noise during that period.

On Thursday, August 8, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site in the afternoon. The site had been well watered. CPUC EM went out to building structure to observe bird activity. American goldfinches, eating off of thistles around the building structure, and mourning doves on the fence north of the building structure were observed. No active nests or other bird species were observed at that location.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of Cushing Parkway construction in the evening. Traffic controls were already set-up at Station 15+ 00, where crews were starting to excavate a trench east of a man-hole vault. Crews were also proofing conduit at the intersection of Cushing Parkway and Fremont Boulevard. The CPUC EM notified the Essex EI that Cushing Parkway was dusty. The Essex EI said he has been talking to construction management about the dust issue at the sites on Fremont Boulevard, Cushing Parkway, and the corner property and would bring it up again at the weekly construction supervisors' meeting on Tuesday. The CPUC EM notified the Essex EI that a Project Memorandum would be issued if the dust problem isn't resolved. The Essex EI said he would pass that information on to construction management.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Agua Caliente Creek (Line F) bore in the evening. Crews were still excavating the new bore pit for the second bore at approximate Station 45+ 00 on Fremont Boulevard. Crews were over half done with their pit excavation. Traffic reduces to one lane at Station 45+ 00 and two sign people were set at either end of the roadway section with stop/slow signs; however, some cars were not adhering to the stop/slow signs. Crews were still excavating asphalt north of the man-hole vault at Station 47+ 00. In the process, crews got their asphalt grinder machine stuck in an area where they had already trenched. The area needs to be cleaned of dust and watered.

#### **Environmental Compliance:**

On August 7, CPUC EM observed that all sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements, with the exception of dust control. Dust control continues to be a problem at the extra work space around Line F, Station 45+ 00.

On August 8, CPUC EM observed that all sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements, with the exception of dust control. Inadequate dust suppression was observed along Cushing Parkway, at the extra work space around Line F, Station 45+ 00, and along Fremont Boulevard at Station 47+ 00. A verbal warning was issued.

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

No NTPs were issued during the subject week. A conference call with PG&E, Essex, and Aspen was conducted on August 7 to discuss the status of pre-construction compliance for tower installation.

#### **Variance Requests:**

No Variance Requests were submitted or reviewed during the subject week.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 8-13-02)**

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