Aspen
Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM
PG&E – TRI-VALLEY 2002 CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT

To: Ken Lewis, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: January 23, 2004

Subject: Erosion and Revegetation Monitoring Report #2, 12/22/03 – 1/22/04

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather included two big storm events in late December and early January. Large amounts of rain had fallen and flash floods were reported around the entire Bay Area. The CPUC EM conducted pre- and post-storm event inspections as well as spot-checks. On December 19, PG&E took over inspection responsibilities from Essex.

Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are complete and the line was officially released to operations in early-July. On November 5, PG&E notified CPUC/Aspen that they were in receipt of the final Phase One signoffs from the City of Pleasanton, Ruby Hills Homeowners Association, and Zone 7.

At the Transition Station, the seed, which was planted in the late spring of this year, has grown in some areas, but shows little growth in others. One area of particular concern lies on a high slope area approaching the station pad. This area is upslope of a sensitive creek area and signs of some erosion are already evident. After inspections, PG&E reported that the area should be seeded in order to protect the station pad from further erosion. Seeding has not yet occurred; however, PG&E has designated a contractor for the work and seeding should commence shortly. During a tour on January 1, the CPUC EM viewed a sinkhole, which had formed near the Vault 1 location within the Transition Station Pad (see Figure 1). Messages were left for the PG&E Project Manager and planner on January 2, reporting the sinkhole at the station. PG&E responded that they had toured the site after the notification and discovered other slumping and compaction issues throughout the Phase One alignment. PG&E called Mueller Pipeliners (the original contractor) back to the site to restore the areas. During a tour on January 6, the EM noted that the sink hole at the station had expanded slightly and that caution tape had been strung around the vaults and hole. Construction fencing had also been placed around the Vault 3, 4, and 15 locations, and the EM observed that sinkage had occurred around these vaults as well (see Figure 2). During the tour on January 22, the EM observed that the land sinkage problems at the vault locations had been filled in and contoured (see Figure 3 and 4).

The New Vineyard Road was not inspected due to jurisdictional constraints; all restoration has been turned over to the City of Pleasanton.

Along the Zone 7 access road near the Vault 3 location, the highly sloped area continues to have very good growth and the water bars are holding. Areas along "Old" Vineyard Road including the Vault 15 location mentioned above were also inspected.

Phase Two:

The Cayetano Substation and the 230 kV line were energized on Wednesday, December 3, at which time the Phase Two segment was officially released for operations. Restoration, including hydro-seeding and mulching, along the Phase Two right-of-way has also been completed.

At the Cayetano Substation site, landscaping around the perimeter is complete and crews have hydro-seeded the area surrounding the station. During the tour on January 1, the CPUC EM observed that the area, which had recently been seeded, had been driven on, and circular rutted tire tracks were still apparent. The Essex EI had commented previously that public joy riding had probably occurred (see Figure 5). A number of trees planted as landscaping around the station were slumped over. A storm drain at the station was flooded and did not appear to be draining. During the tour on January 22, the CPUC EM noted that a fence and gate had been installed between the Station driveway and the seeded area. The trees that had been slumped over were adjusted upright, and the drain had cleared of water.

Continuing along May School and Dagnino Roads things looked fine and seed mixes were sprouting. East from Dagnino Road along the access road that follows the alignment to the Transition Station. The recent rains have promoted growth of the applied seed. On January 1, along Dagnino and May School Roads, some areas were flooded along the alignment especially at the corner of May School Road and Dagnino Road and at the corner of May School Road and Belle Roma Road. During the tour on January 22, it was observed that the water had dissipated from areas that were flooded at the beginning of the month.

Figure 1 – Transition Station Sinkhole at the Vault One area, Phase One.

Figure 2 – Slumped soil at the Vault 3 location, Phase One.

Figure 3 –Restoration of the sinkhole at the Vault 1 area, Transition Station, Phase One.

Figure 4 – Restoration of the slumped soil at the Vault 3 location, Phase One.

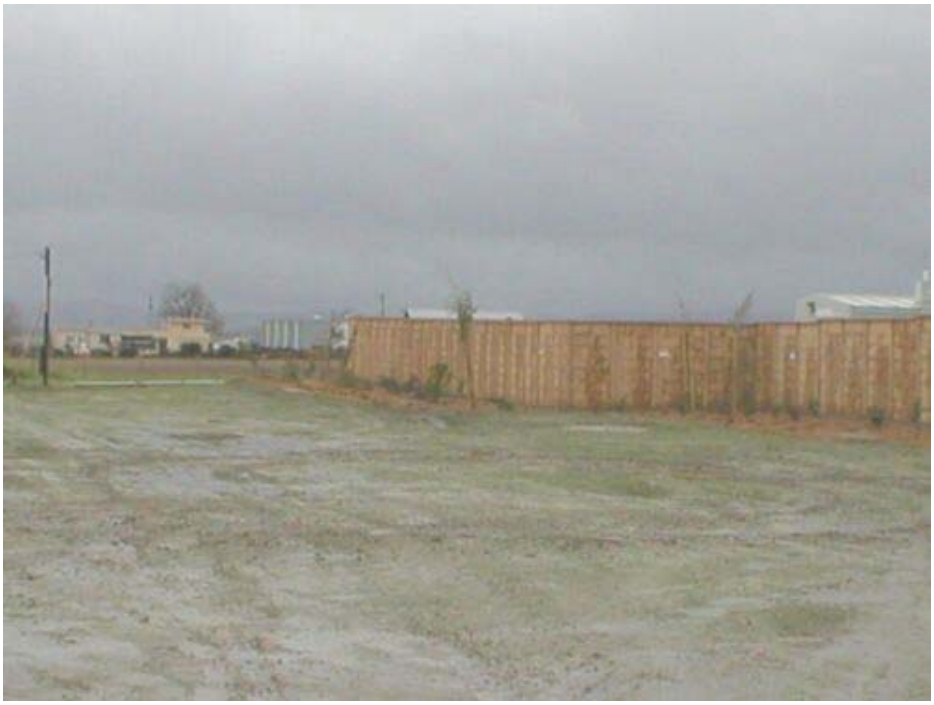

Figure 5 – Cayetano Substation, note vegetation and rutted foreground area, Phase Two.