



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 16, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #17: January 6, 2003 – January 12, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather during the subject week was mostly overcast with rain toward the end of the subject week. On January 9, the CPUC EM, Lead EM, and Project Manager toured the entire project site. A meeting was also held with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) and Project Manager to discuss project status.

On Monday, January 6, the CPUC approved Variance Request 2, which asked for extra work space to construct a soundwall around the northern Arroyo del Valle bore pit. The wall construction restarted and was completed on Wednesday January 8 (see Figure 1). 24-hour boring operations began upon completion of the wall. By Saturday, January 11, the pipe stem had been jacked under the crossing approximately 200 feet. Crews continued to de-water the northern and southern pits; however, on Thursday, January 6, during shoring installation at the south bore pit, a hazardous materials spill occurred. Approximately 15 gallons of hydraulic fluid was released from a break in an excavator hose. Fluid was sprayed over a large area within and surrounding the bore pit. The Essex EI was immediately contacted. De-watering of the southern bore pit was stopped and clean-up began. Soils impacted by the spill were scrapped and a Baker tank was brought to the site to contain the hazardous materials. Absorbent pads were laid atop the water at the bottom of the pit to soak up the fluid. Per requirements outlined in the de-watering plan, the Regional Water Quality Control Board was notified of the spill. By the end of the subject week, clean up of the spill was complete. The water samples collected at the site tested below Basin Plan limits and de-watering to the local storm drain re-started at the southern bore pit.

During the subject week, the CPUC EM toured New Vineyard Road. No work was occurring at vaults 13A and 13B between Stations 42+00 and 44+00 or vaults 14A and 14B between Stations 60+00-63+00.

Crews continued to trench across “Old” Vineyard Avenue. This segment connects the mainline conduit installed within New Vineyard Road and “Old” Vineyard Avenue. One lane of traffic was shut down and work was being conducted in compliance with the Traffic Control Plan.

Boring operations continued at the Ruby Hills entrance location at Station 151+00 to 154+00.

Along “Old” Vineyard Avenue, crews began excavation and/or installation of vaults 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10A and 10B. On Tuesday, January 7, a hazardous waste spill occurred near the vault 8A and 8B site. At the corner of Isabel Avenue and Vineyard Avenue a haul truck broke a fuel line spilling approximately 5 gallons of diesel. No resources were impacted and contaminated soils were excavated and contained in a hazardous waste storage area in the Mueller Yard.

Crews continued work on vaults 4A and 4B and associated tie-ins from Stations 54+00 to 56+00 (see Figure 2) and vaults 3A and 3B at Stations 35+00 to 38+00. The tracking of dirt onto roadways persists; however, efforts are being made to continually clean the roads (see Figure 3). Crews completed installation and tie-in work on vaults 2A and 2B from Station 17+50 to 19+50

On Thursday January 9, at the Vault 4A and 4B location, the Zone 7 Access Road was blocked by operating equipment. No flagger was present and the view of the roadway was obstructed by the equipment. The Essex EI and PM were immediately notified of the problem. On Friday, January 10, a flagger was on-site directing traffic.

The CPUC EM toured the Transition Station area. Erosion control was inspected and appeared to be containing run-off. On January 9, exposed areas of the Station were hydro-seeded to aid erosion control.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On Monday, January 6, during shoring installation at the south bore pit of the Arroyo del Valle a hazardous materials spill occurred. Approximately 15 gallons of hydraulic fluid was released from a break in an excavator hose. Fluid was sprayed over a large area within and surrounding the bore pit. Proper clean-up and notifications were made.

On Tuesday, January 7, a hazardous waste spill occurred near the corner of Isabel Avenue and Vineyard Avenue when a haul truck broke a fuel line spilling approximately 5 gallons of diesel. No resources were impacted and contaminated soils were excavated and contained in a hazardous waste storage area in the Mueller Yard.

On Thursday, January 9, at Station 55+00 a lane of the Zone 7 Access Road was blocked by operating equipment without proper traffic control. Proper traffic controls were implemented the following day.

For all other operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

NTP #3 was approved by the CPUC and distributed on December 12. This NTP completes the Phase One portion of the Tri-Valley Project.

**Variance Requests:**

On December 19, PG&E submitted Variance Request 2 to allow for the construction of a temporary sound wall along the eastern, western, and southern boundaries of the Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit to allow for 24-hour/day bore operations. The variance was approved by the CPUC on January 6, 2003.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:**

None.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 01-16-03)**

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	10/3/02	Temporary storage of bore pit spoils on the north side of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing Stations 304+00 to 306+00.	Completed	10/17/02
2	12/19/02	40 feet of extra work space was requested on the south, east and west sides of the north bore pit associated with the Arroyo Del Valle jack and bore to install a sound barrier around boring operations, so that 24-hour construction could occur.	Completed	1/6/02



Figure 1

Arroyo del Valle northern bore pit. Note the sound wall constructed around the site.



Figure 2

Construction of tie-ins at the Vault 4A and 4B location.



Figure 3  
Dirt tracked into the road near the Vault 3A and 3B construction.