



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 13, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #25: March 3, 2003 – March 9, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear during the subject week. Erosion control was inspected project wide and repairs were made where needed. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) conducted several environmental trainings of contractor and subcontractor personnel, as well as site visitors and inspectors during the subject week. Storm drains along the right of way and in active work areas were protected and maintained.

At the Arroyo del Valle bore, all boring operations and transmission line installation under the crossing are complete, thus meeting the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement permit extension for the Arroyo bore which expired on March 1, 2003. Both the northern and southern bore pits are back filled and compacted. Permanent erosion controls such as jute netting and loose straw have been installed. The three 20,000-gallon Baker tanks, which contain the contaminated groundwater resulting from the spill that occurred February 8, remain on-site. Test results show that the hydrocarbon content levels are too high to allow either overland or storm drain release. Per Buck Jones, PG&E Principal Land Planner, the water will be hauled off-site to a water disposal facility. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that on Thursday, March 6, an East Bay MUD representative was on-site collecting samples for testing from the Baker tanks prior to receiving the water for disposal. At the northern site, crews have installed Vaults 18A and 18B and tied into conduit installed under the Arroyo del Valle (see Figure 1).

Crews continued trenching within “Old” Vineyard Avenue. Trenching continued eastward from Vaults 15A and 15B and between the Vault 16A and 16B location and the Vault 17A and 17B location. Crews are finishing up work and tie-ins to Vaults 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17A and 17B. Traffic Control Plans (TCPs) were implemented.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mueller Contractor Yard. On March 3, it was observed that some vehicles were parked around the edges of the staging area. This area is approved for use per Variance #5 contingent on landowner approval submission to the CPUC. The Essex EI was contacted about the issue. To date, landowner approval has not been submitted to the CPUC. The Essex EI documented the issue as a minor problem.

During the subject week, the CPUC EM toured New Vineyard Road. Conduit splicing, proofing, and line stringing crews were onsite. The directional drill, which was set up at the bridged unnamed tributary along New Vineyard Road, remains inactive. On February 13, Buck Jones, PG&E Principal Land Planner, called the CPUC EM with information that directional drilling operations at the unnamed tributary have been suspended until a Streambed Alteration Agreement has been granted by the CDFG for work associated with the crossing. On March 7, Buck Jones reported that the Agreement has been approved and that PG&E is waiting to receive the paperwork prior to mobilizing at the site. Operations should start soon.

Boring operations were completed at the Ruby Hills entrance location. Tie-in operations are completed to the mainline on the western side of the bore and the area has been backfilled. Tie-ins to the eastern side of the bore are yet to be completed. On March 3, the contractor was notified by the Essex EI that some spoils had breached the silt fence installed at the western site. By March 7, repairs had not been made. Essex documented the issue as a minor problem and repairs were consequently made.

At the Isabel Avenue bore location, boring operations are completed. Crews have finished tie-in work on the east side of the road and are currently working on tie-ins at the western pit. During the subject week, crews were on-site stringing cable at the vault location next to the bore.

The Caltrans permit for the Highway 84 bore is now approved. Crews have started to excavate the pits for the bore and to install shoring on the western side of Highway 84. For the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station, crews have finished installation and tie-ins to Vaults 1A and 1B. Over a small sloped area along the right-of-way, the land owner has taken down the installed jute-netting which was installed after the duct installation to prevent erosion of the slope (see Figure 2).

The CPUC EM toured the Transition Station area. Thirty-foot holes have been augured and rebar pole supports were set in concrete. The pad has been excavated for the line installation to the pole supports (see Figure 3). By the end of the subject week, the foundation installation was complete. Steel riser footings were placed in the foundation and conduit installed from the risers to the mainline. On Friday, March 7, the CPUC EM reviewed proposed TEWS areas located within the PG&E easement east and west of the Transition Station, where the overhead lines will need to be grounded during line installation work.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On March 3, the contractor was notified by the Essex EI that some spoils had breached the silt fence installed at the Ruby Hills entrance site. By March 7, repairs had not been made. Essex documented the issue as a minor problem and repairs were consequently made.

On March 5, vehicles were parked outside of the approved staging area without property owner approval notification to the CPUC as required by Variance #5.

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. On February 13, the CPUC EM met with Essex to review the Phase Two mitigation requirements necessary for NTP #4 preparation.

**Variance Requests:**

Variance Request #5 submitted for an approximate 2.6-acre expansion of the approved Mueller Contractor Yard was approved by the CPUC on February 25, 2003. Landowner approval is still pending.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:** None.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 03-13-03)**

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	1/6/03
3	01/29/03	Approximate 200' by 300' extra workspace area east of the Isabel Ave jack & bore.	Completed	2/18/03
4	01/29/03	Approximate 120' by 320' extra workspace area north of the Hwy 84 jack & bore, and an 80' by 200' area south of the Hwy 84 bore.	Completed	2/18/03
5	02/12/03	Approximate 2.6-acre expansion of the approved Mueller Contractor Yard, City of Pleasanton.	Completed	2/25/03



Figure 1

Vault excavation and installation for tie-ins to the Arroyo del Valle northern bore area.



Figure 2

Sloped area along the right-of-way where the property owner removed the jute netting installed by PG&E for erosion control.



Figure 3  
Transition Station line excavation work.