



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 20, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #26: March 10, 2003 – March 16, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear with rains toward the end of 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. Wildlife spring breeding seasons are occurring. The CPUC EM paid special attention to Raptor habitat and possible nests, as well as ground surveys for burrowing owl habitat along the right of way during the subject week. Construction progressed and vault installations are now complete for the Phase One portion of the project.

At the Arroyo del Valle, 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 contained the contaminated groundwater resulting from the spill that occurred February 8, have been drained and the water taken to an East Bay MUD facility for disposal. The tanks were removed by the end of the week. At the northern site, crews have finished installation of Vaults 18A and 18B and tied into conduit installed under the Arroyo del Valle. Crews finished installation and tie-ins of Vaults 19A and 19B as well as conduit tie-in to the Vineyard Substation. On March 13, the CPUC observed that sediment fence was being breached by spoils and needed to be reinforced near a little wetland area adjacent to the Substation. The Essex EI was informed, and the issue was taken care of immediately.

Crews continued trenching within “Old” Vineyard Avenue. Trenching continued from the Vault 14A and 14B location to the Vault 15A and 15B location as well as from the Vault 16A and 16B location to the Vault 17A and 17B location. Crews have finished up work and tie-ins to Vaults 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17A and 17B. Traffic Control Plans were implemented.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mueller Contractor Yard. The extra workspace area adjacent to the yard is approved for use per Variance #5 contingent on landowner approval submission to the CPUC. By the end of the subject week, landowner approval had not been submitted to the CPUC and the extra workspace area was not being used.

The CPUC EM toured New Vineyard Road. 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 17, the CPUC EM was notified by PG&E that the Agreement has been approved. Operations started on March 19.

Boring operations are complete 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. During the subject week, tie-ins to the eastern side of the bore were completed.

Boring operations are complete at Isabel Avenue. Crews have finished tie-in work on the east side of the road and have completed tie-ins to the western pit during the subject week. The area was backfilled and the temporary road asphalt removed. On March 10, a storm drain near the western excavation was left unprotected (see Figure 1). The Essex EI was notified and sand bags were placed around the storm drain. 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. On March 12, the CPUC EM met with Buck Jones and Essex Project Manager, Megan Bracker, at the site to discuss dewatering issues. Crews continue to excavate the bore pits and have installed shoring. Groundwater was encountered during the excavation and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is being consulted for discharge requirements. PG&E has proposed a plan to pump the groundwater to Baker tanks for settling, than to a pre-existing land depression for percolation and groundwater recharge. After considering the proposed plan and area as well as consultation with the CPUC Lead EM, the CPUC EM informed PG&E that the proposed de-watering plan is permissible if RWCQB concurs. RWQCB gave verbal approval of the plan on Friday March 14, at which time the overland discharge began.

Within the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station, restoration and grading work commenced between the Vaults 3A and 3B and the Vaults 4A and 4B locations.

On March 10, the CPUC EM met Buck Jones at the Transition Station to look at the TEWS locations on both sides of the Station along the pre-existing transmission line, which overhangs the Station area (see Figures 2 and 3). Also in attendance were the cultural and biological surveyors from Jones and Stokes: Jon Waggoner and Gabriel Roark. The areas are off a two-track road on the Foley Ranch and an area adjacent to the Zone 7 plant. The areas are needed to place boom trucks, which will serve to ground the wires during line stringing work at the Station. Survey reports with negative findings for both cultural and biological resources were submitted on March 11. On March 12, the CPUC EM passed off the signed TEWS for the locations. At the Transition Station crews have finished the foundation work. Steel riser footings were placed in the foundation and conduit installed from the risers to the mainline. Poles are being erected from the footings. On March 14, the boom trucks were placed in the TEWS area discussed above and grounded the overhead transmission lines, which were connected to the pole supports at the Station. The CPUC EM checked erosion controls at the station, which appeared in good repair. Trucks and applicable equipment were being kept outside of exclusion boundaries at the Station site.

Environmental Compliance:

For all 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 03-20-03)

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

Storm drain left unprotected at the western side of the Isabel Avenue bore location.



Figure 2

Transition Station, view of one area requested by the TEWS. Note far right foreground support structure lines to be grounded.



Figure 3
Transition Station viewed from TEWS area. The Boom truck will be placed along the two-track road in the foreground.