



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** April 4, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #28: March 24, 2003 – March 30, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear with no significant storm events 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. 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. On March 24, the Essex EI contacted the CPUC EM with information that a Red Tail Hawk was spotted in a nest off the right-of-way adjacent to the Vault 10 area. Construction has already been completed through this area. On Friday, March 28, Roosevelt Grant, CPUC Project Manager, and Susan Lee, Aspen Program Manager, toured the Tri-Valley construction activities.

For the area north of the Arroyo del Valle extending to the Vineyard Substation, vault installation and tie-ins are complete and the area has been compacted and re-contoured.

Trenching and conduit installation continued along New Vineyard Road from the Vault 14A and 14B location to the intersection with “Old” Vineyard Avenue. Crews also continued with trenching and installation within “Old” Vineyard Avenue from the Vault 15A and 15B location eastward toward the intersection. Crews continued with trenching and conduit installation from the Vault 16A and 16B location to the Vault 17A and 17B location, and from the Vault 17A and 17B location to south of the Arroyo del Valle. Throughout the “Old” Vineyard Avenue area, crews continued restoration along the right-of-way. Street trench areas were re-paved, and off pavement trench line was restored and grapevine rows were extended. Traffic Control Plans were implemented. Work areas were kept clean.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mueller Contractor Yard. All vehicles and equipment were being kept within the yard and the extra workspace area adjacent to the yard approved for use per Variance #5.

At New Vineyard Road, directional drilling operations started on March 19 at the bridged unnamed tributary that crosses the roadway. A Streambed Alteration Agreement Amendment, which outlines the drilling operation requirements, has been granted by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for work associated with the crossing. The CPUC EM inspected the installation of erosion controls and frac-out contingency containment and clean-up equipment for the drilling operation. During drilling operations, a few small frac-outs (10-30 gallons) have occurred in the road, which runs perpendicular to the tributary along the bore path. The bentonite was contained and cleaned up without resource impact. On March 20, a frac-out occurred in the tributary. The frac-out had been identified immediately and proper clean up had been executed. The frac-out appears to have sealed and did not continue to flow during the subject week. The Essex EI asked the CPUC EM about the use of a space along the right-of-way near the bore rig which the bore crew requested to use as a cuttings dryout area. The CPUC EM stated that if the area was properly contained, usage should not pose a problem. The

subject area was included in the pre-construction biological and cultural surveys conducted for the project that concluded there were no sensitive resources present at the subject dryout area.

Boring operations continue at the Highway 84 bore (see Figure 1). The first of the two bores was almost complete by the end of the subject week. Overland dewatering continues as defined in the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved plan. The water has effectively percolated through the basin area without overflow.

Within the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station, restoration and grading work continue (see Figure 2). Grapevines row extensions are being installed up to the underground installation.

At the Transition Station, connections to the existing Contra Costa-Newark transmission line, which overhangs the station area have been made to the erected station poles (see Figures 3 and 4). The CPUC EM checked erosion controls at the site, which appeared in good repair. Trucks and applicable equipment were being kept outside of exclusion boundaries at the Station site.

**Environmental Compliance:**

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. No pre-construction compliance submittals were provided during the subject week.

**Variance Requests: None.**

**Agency Personnel Contacts: None.**

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 04-04-03)**

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  
Highway 84 boring operations.



Figure 2  
Right-of-way restorations west of the Transition Station.



Figure 3  
Transition Station Work. Note the new connections to the existing Contra Costa-Newark transmission line, which overhangs the Station area.



Figure 4  
Continued work at the Transition Station.