



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 10, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #29: March 31, 2003 – April 6, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was overcast with sporadic heavy rain events 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.

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; however, conduit proofing results showed that a segment of conduit is off line south of the Vault 18 location. Crews plan to excavate the overlying soil, break-up the concrete casing and repair the conduit.

Trenching and conduit installation continued along New Vineyard Road westward from the Vault 14A and 14B location and across the intersection with “Old” Vineyard Avenue (see Figure 1). 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. At the end of each workday all open trench was covered with steel plates and the areas swept clean. Throughout the “Old” Vineyard Avenue area, crews continued restoration along the right-of-way. Completed street trench areas were re-paved and off pavement trench line was restored and grapevine rows were extended. Traffic Control Plans were implemented.

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 continue at the bridged unnamed tributary that crosses the roadway. The CPUC EM inspected the installation of erosion controls and frac-out contingency containment and clean-up equipment for the drilling operation. Crews have completed pilot holes for both of the bores under the tributary. Currently crews have been working on the southern bore hole, running progressively larger reamer heads through the hole in order to increase the hole diameter. Once the hole is large enough, the High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) casing will be pulled back through the hole. The drilling subcontractor estimates that the first bore will be completed by the end of the next subject week. No frac-outs were observed during the subject week. Operations are running smoothly and the site is being kept clean.

On March 24, the Essex EI contacted the CPUC EM with information that a Red Tail Hawk was spotted in a nest along “Old” Vineyard Avenue adjacent to the Vault 10 area (see Figure 2). Construction

including conduit installation, restoration and grapevine row extensions has already been completed through this area. No exclusion signs had been posted by April 3. While on-site, the CPUC EM saw a Mueller restoration crew doing right-of way clean-up closely approaching the nest exclusion area. The Essex EI was immediately contacted who then met the crew and diverted them around the exclusion area. The Essex EI later installed exclusion signs (see Figure 3). The PG&E biologist has been called to do a survey of the nest area. Grapevine re-planting is planned through the area. The CDFG will be consulted if and when any additional work within the 250-foot buffer should need to occur.

Boring operations continue at the Highway 84 bore. The first of the two bores was completed by the end of the subject week. HDPE casing was pulled through the bore hole (see Figure 4). 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. 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. Crews have installed switching equipment and have begun conduit stringing from the underground installation up the pole supports (see Figure 5). 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 operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

On April 9, Essex Environmental Group notified Aspen Environmental Group that PG&E intends to energize Phase 1 of the Tri-Valley Project on May 22nd. The pre-energization notice was provided in accordance with Mitigation Measure PS-3.

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. A meeting is planned on April 9th between the Essex PM and the CPUC EM to start the Phase Two, NTP #4 submittal process.

Variance Requests: None.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 04-10-03)

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
Trenching and conduit installation east of the Vault 15 location across “Old” Vineyard Avenue.



Figure 2
Red Tail Hawk spotted (located on the second bar from the top and left of the pole) on a utility pole across the street (“Old” Vineyard Avenue) from its nest location.



Figure 3
Exclusion signs were placed at the 250-foot exclusion boundaries of the active Red Tailed Hawk nest location.



Figure 4
The first of the two bores under Highway 84 has been completed.



Figure 5
Continued work at the Transition Station, crews were on-site stringing conduit from the underground section to the above ground installation.