



# **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 24, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #31: April 14, 2003 – April 20, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

### **Summary of Activity:**

Overcast skies with scattered rain continued throughout 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 EMs 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, crews began to pull cable at Vault 18. In addition, backfilling continued near the corner of Vineyard Avenue and Burnell Road.

With the completion of trenching and conduit installation within “Old” Vineyard Avenue from Vaults 17A and 17B to the Southern Arroyo Del Valle bore tie-in, crews were pouring concrete over the installation and backfilling took place (see Figure 1). Sections of the trench in this area are also being repaved. Minor repaving and restoration occurred from the Vault 15 location and Vault 14 location. Cable splicing took place at Vaults 14 and 16. 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. Essex submitted a 24-hour work proposal package to the CDFG and on Tuesday April 15, CDFG responded with approval for the 24-hour work contingent on specific lighting and monitoring requirements, as well as frac-out contingency protocol (see Figures 2 and 3). Crews began the second bore during the subject week and are currently operating 24-hours/day. No frac-outs were observed during the subject week. The CPUC EM inspected the installation of erosion controls and frac-out contingency containment and clean-up equipment for the drilling operation.

Boring operations have been completed at Highway 84, but de-watering continues. Crews are stringing the conduit through the boreholes and tying into the main line on both sides of the bore (see Figure 4). The site appears to be contained and in compliance. The bottom of the de-watering detention basin is coated with a layer of sediment; however, no run off is occurring.

For the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station, crews continue to do restoration work, as well as re-planting vine rows.

The CPUC EM inspected the Red Tail Hawk’s nest along the right-of-way along the Zone 7 Access Road east of Highway 84 at Station 61+00. Exclusion signs were erected. While on-site, the CPUC observed

that a truck loaded with boring equipment was parked directly within the resource exclusion boundaries (see Figure 5). Photos were taken and the Essex EI showed up at the site. A Project Memorandum was written stating:

*“On April 17 at approximately 8:45 a.m., the CPUC observed a project subcontractor truck and equipment parked within the 250-foot exclusion zone of an active Red Tail Hawk’s nest, which was identified by a PG&E biologist and documented in survey findings. This action is in direct violation of project Mitigation Measure B-5 that states that construction and maintenance activities shall be scheduled to avoid critical seasons. Raptor nests will be avoided during specific seasons throughout the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project. Applicant Proposed Mitigation Measure 7.4 States if occupied habitat is detected...a construction free buffer of at least 250 ft around the nest will be maintained to protect the breeding birds.”*

Note: Exclusion signs at the 250 ft buffer boundaries were in place and at the time of the incident and the Environmental Monitor was not on-site. The active nest was identified by survey to have a clutch of eggs.

Crews have finished the Transition Station foundation work, erecting the poles and stringing the transmission line. Conduit has been pulled at the pole footings. Insulator banks were installed near the poles. The current grading at the site does not conform the engineering plans. Crews were on-site re-grading the foundation pad to a lesser slope. Exclusion areas are being maintained and cyclone fencing was installed surrounding the station. Erosion controls were inspected around the site.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On April 17, a Project Memorandum was issued to the Essex EI documenting non-compliance with project Mitigation Measure and applicant-proposed Mitigation Measure 7.4 regarding activity in a resource exclusion area.

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):**

Numerous pre-construction compliance submittals were provided and reviewed during the subject week for Phase Two of the Tri-Valley Project.

**Variance Requests: None.**

**Agency Personnel Contacts: None.**

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 04-24-03)

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 - Tie-in to south of the Arroyo del Valle.  
Concrete was poured over the conduit.



Figure 2 - New Vineyard Road Tributary Bore Rig Lighting



Figure 3 - New Vineyard Road Tributary Bore Exit Pit Lighting.



Figure 4 - Highway 84 bore tie-in work





Figure 5 - Project subcontractor truck parked within the Red Tail Hawk exclusion zone.  
Note the sensitive resource exclusion area sign in the foreground.