



Aspen *Environmental Group*

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

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 5, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #37: May 26, 2003 – June 1, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. Erosion control was inspected project wide and repairs were made where needed. 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. Approvals have been granted for crews to mobilize to the Cayetano Substation site per NTP #4; however, crews have not begun moving to the Phase Two site. Active construction was originally planned for the week of June 2, but has been delayed to mid-June.

Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are now complete. All conduit and vaults are completely installed. Outstanding tasks include transmission line splicing and proofing. However, three lines of installed cable proved faulty. To replace the faulty cable, the cable manufacturer has had to re-start the cable assembly line and when complete, will transport the cable from Alabama. These problems will delay the Phase One line energization deadline from May 22 to July 3, 2003, if not later. New line energization notices will be re-sent on or about June 3 to comply with the 30-day notification window prior to energization. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) has reduced monitoring from full-time to twice-weekly spot checks, but remains on-call. Mueller has reduced crews and continues with restoration activities.

During the subject week, fiber-splicing at various vault locations was observed along the project route. Concrete pads were installed around numerous vault manhole covers. Crews have installed jute netting and seeded the sloped area near the northern intersection of New Vineyard Road and “Old” Vineyard Avenue. Crews have installed mulch and have seeded along the graded area near the Vault 15 location. Crews continue to water the area and the seed mix has started to sprout. Crews have also continued various restoration efforts along “Old” Vineyard Avenue. 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. The yard areas are being cleared of equipment and spoils (see Figure 1).

At New Vineyard Road, crews continue road restoration efforts. The area appears to be re-staked and is being graded (see Figure 2).

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. The additional exclusion fencing installed in the area to prevent crewmembers from accidentally entering the exclusion zone remains intact. Crews have installed base rock to the dirt road along the end of the alignment to the Transition Station.

Crews have finished the Transition Station work, and have installed cyclone fencing around the station. Crews have installed base rock to the Transition Station pad. Erosion control devices were inspected and are being maintained.

Phase Two:

During the subject week the CPUC toured the Cayetono Substation site and the lay down yard along May School Road (see Figure 3). Crews have not begun mobilization to the Cayetono Substation site.

On Wednesday, May 28, the Essex Project Manager (PM), Megan Bracker, contacted the CPUC EM regarding grading work at the lay down yard along May School Road for fire suppression; approved Variance Request #6 prohibits any clearing or grading of the site. In response, Aspen informed the Essex PM that close mowing to the ground surface and the import of fill and/or gravel could be done, but if grading was required then a Modification to the Variance must be submitted and approved by CPUC. The Essex EI reported to the CPUC EM that the perimeter of the yard was disked for fire suppression on May 28. The area was also mowed, with gravel placed at the entrance, and fencing placed around the perimeter. On May 30, the Essex EI found glass fragments in the disked area, which were identified as possible historic artifacts. The PG&E cultural resources subcontractor was called to survey the site and determined that the find was not a cultural or historic resource. The CPUC EM was not notified of the find or the resulting survey. Due to the lack of immediate notification, the CPUC EM was unable to verify that the Cultural Recourse Plan protocol was followed.

Environmental Compliance:

On May 30, the Essex EI found a possible cultural resource in the May School Road yard of the Phase Two segment. The project archeologist was called to survey the site; however, the CPUC EM was not notified of the find or the resulting survey. Due to the lack of immediate notification the CPUC EM was unable to verify that the Cultural Recourse Plan protocol was followed or the determination that the find was not a cultural or historic resource. Consultation with the Essex PM has been subsequently conducted to resolve the communication breakdown.

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):

The NTP for the Cayetano Substation, Phase Two, was issued by CPUC on May 6.

Variance Requests:

No Variance Request were submitted for review during the subject week.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
 (Updated 06/05/03)

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
6	05/19/03	Approximate 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road for equipment and materials storage and contractor staging for the Phase Two portion of the project.	Completed	5/23/03



Figure 1 – Mueller lay down yard, Phase One.



Figure 2 – Continued New Vineyard Road restoration efforts, Phase One.



Figure 3 –North Livermore and May School Road intersection, the Cayetano Substation will be located in the far left corner past the utility pole, Phase Two.