



# **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 11, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #38: June 2, 2003 – June 8, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. 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. 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. 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 areas 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.

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

The CPUC EM inspected the Red Tail Hawk’s nest area along the right-of-way along the Zone 7 Access Road east of HW 84 at Station 61+00. On June 3, Essex submitted a report from the project biologist stating that the nesting activities are complete and that no new nesting activities are expected until next year’s breeding season. Therefore, construction/restoration activities can now re-commence in the 250-foot buffer area. While on site the CPUC EM observed the Essex EI removing the exclusion signs and posts (see Figure 1).

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:

On June 4, the CPUC EM toured the entire Phase Two alignment with Buck Jones, PG&E Principal Land Planner. Crews have not begun mobilization to the Cayetano Substation site; however, a temporary electric cattle fence was installed around the perimeter of the station.

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 (see Figure 2).

**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):**

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

**Variance Requests:**

On June 6, PG&E submitted a Modification to Variance Request #6 to allow clearing and grading activities at the 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road. As conditioned by the Variance Request #6 approval, no clearing or grading was allowed at the site. The request was denied by CPUC on June 9.

**Agency Personnel Contacts: None**

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 06/11/03)

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
6-Modification	06/06/03	Allow clearing and grading at the 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road.	Denied by CPUC 06/09/03	



Figure 1 – Essex EI dismantling the Red Tail Hawk nest exclusion area sign posts, Phase One.



Figure 2 – May School Road lay down yard, Phase Two.  
The area has been mowed and gravel installed in the entrance area.  
The perimeter of the yard was disked and fencing was installed.