



Aspen *Environmental Group*

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

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 14, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #47: August 4, 2003 – August 10, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) conducted several environmental trainings throughout the week for new substation and trench construction personnel.

Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are now complete and the line was officially released to operations in early-July. The contractor has reduced crews and continues with restoration work concerning a land sinkage problem resulting from project construction activities near the Ruby Hills entrance location along Vineyard Avenue. The Essex EI continues to monitor periodically on a spot-check basis, and remains on-call.

Essex has requested to reduce their weekly reporting of Phase One activities to a monthly or as-needed basis given the minimal activity on the segment. The CPUC EM is reviewing the post-construction reporting requirements for the project.

Phase Two:

At the Cayetano Substation site, crews have completed grading operations. Crews have also completed cutting roadways into the landing, which have been graveled. A water sweeper is being used to clean the roadway outside of the substation. The contractor continued foundation work for footing installation. Approximately 25 deep holes have been drilled and steel cages are being inserted and set in concrete. At the end of each workday the holes are being covered by plywood to avoid entrapment of wildlife. A fuel storage tank was brought to the site during the subject week. For secondary containment of the tank, a pit was excavated and lined with plastic.

During the subject week, burrowing owls were spotted in and around the PSD Yard foraging and perching. The Essex EI has conducted additional tailgate trainings to remind the crew members and Foremen to inspect the yard and work areas on a daily basis and to inspect the inside of all conduit prior to movement of or passing materials through conduit. The burrow nest is located approximately 295-feet from the yard site and contains two adult owls and seven young.

On August 5, the Essex EI reported that a contractor had accidentally started a small fire in the PSD Yard parking area with an improperly extinguished cigarette butt. The fire was quickly put out. Essex documented the issue as a minor problem and crews were reminded of smoking policies for the project. The CPUC EM inspected the burn area and no resources were impacted.

Crews continued trenching and conduit installation operations along May School Road during the subject week (see Figure 1). Concrete was poured over completed installations, and backfilled first with sub-soils up to base grade and then with the separated topsoils. At the end of each workday, the contractor ramped the ends of the trench line and installed caps at the ends of each conduit. Vault installation also occurred during the subject week. Vault locations CC-4 and DC-23 were excavated; and shoring was placed within the pits. At the end of each workday a ramp was installed in the pits to avoid animal entrapment. By the end of the subject week the vault boxes were lowered into the pits. Crews backfilled the void between the vault boxes and pit excavations to avoid the possible entrapment of wildlife. Crews have also begun the excavation for Vault CC-5 and DC-24.

On July 29, an unanticipated cultural discovery was made on the right of way adjacent to historic May School cultural resource site. A concrete walkway was identified during clearing of the alignment area at Station 88+00. The CPUC EM and Lead EM were immediately notified of the find. Per procedures outlined in the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan, a 100-foot buffer was immediately established and barricade fencing and “*Sensitive Resource Area-Keep Out*” signs delineating the find were installed. The Jones and Stokes Archeologist inspected the site and determined the walkway to be at least 45 years old. A consultation report was submitted to Aspen/CPUC followed by the submission of an NTP request to continue operations within the 100-foot buffer approaching the resource. Specific resource avoidance and protection criteria were outlined as well as additional CPUC consultation/inspection requirements and the NTP was approved by the CPUC on Monday, August 4. Construction within the buffer is planned to commence on August 11.

During the subject week, the contractor completed grading a permanent access road along the alignment between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station. The road was kept outside of sensitive resource areas previously delineated by barricade fencing. Such areas include burrows isolated for California tiger salamander protection as well as existing site drainage features (see Figure 2). Approaching the Transition Station adjacent to the new access road, crews also disked a large swath of land for firebreak purposes (see Figure 3).

Crews completed grading and soil compaction operations at the new Transition Station. Previously installed silt fence was inspected along the west and north sides of the station landing.

Environmental Compliance:

On August 5, the Essex EI reported that a contractor had accidentally started a small fire in the PSD Yard parking area with an improperly extinguished cigarette butt. The fire was quickly put out. Essex documented the issue as a minor problem and crews were reminded of smoking policies for the project.

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):

On August 4, the CPUC approved an NTP request to construct within the 100-foot buffer established for an unanticipated cultural resource located along May School Road. Specific resource avoidance and protection criteria were outlined as well as additional CPUC consultation/inspection requirements.

Variance Requests:

On August 4, Variance Request #8, which requests a variance of Mitigation 7.4 for adjustments to burrowing owl protection mitigation measures per site-specific recommendations made by CDFG, was approved by CPUC.

On August 11, Variance Request #9 was submitted to extend the PSD Yard, requesting an additional 82' by 270' area to the north of the yard, for parking and materials storage for the Phase Two portion of the project. The bio-survey report was incomplete, so further information has been requested.

Agency Personnel Contacts:

Janice Gan, California Department of Fish and Game.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 08/14/03)

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.	Completed	7/8/03
7	07/01/03	Variance of Mitigation Measure 7.3 trench cover requirements to protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox deferring to the protocol outlined in the USFWS Biological Opinion.	Completed	7/22/03
8	7/25/03	Variance of Mitigation 7.4 for adjustments to burrowing owl protection mitigation measures per site-specific recommendations made by CDFG.	Completed	8/4/03
9	8/11/03	Variance to extend the PSD Yard by an additional 82' by 270' area to the north of the yard, for parking and materials storage for Phase Two of the project.	Under review	



Figure 1 – Trenching and conduit installation along May School Road, Phase Two.



Figure 2 – Access road construction between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station, Phase Two.
Note that the road construction did not cross the drainage in the foreground.



Figure 3 – Access road construction between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station, Phase Two. Note the center strip is the new road, directly to the right of the road is a parallel graded firebreak.