



# **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 28, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #49: August 18, 2003 – August 24, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

### **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. The PG&E public hotline received a message from a local resident during the subject week primarily concerning construction noise before 8:00 am on Saturday mornings. PG&E will follow up on the complaint.

#### 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 Environmental Inspector (EI) continues to monitor periodically on a spot-check basis, and remains on-call.

#### Phase Two:

At the Cayetano Substation site, crews have completed grading operations. 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 all open holes are being covered by plywood to avoid entrapment of wildlife. The SPCC pond has been completed at the southwest corner of the substation. Within the depression, a ramp was installed and maintained throughout construction of the feature to prevent wildlife entrapment including the San Joaquin Kit Fox (see Figure 1). The perimeter of silt fencing is being maintained around the substation site.

During the subject week, burrowing owls continued to be 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 burrowing owls continue to occupy the nest located approximately 295-feet from the yard site. All seven young owls continue to forage in the area and have yet to fledge.

Vault installation occurred at locations DC-23, CC-5 and DC-24, CC-7 and DC-26. Vault DC-23 that had been damaged was partially replaced during the subject week. Conduit tie-ins to Vaults CC-5 and DC-24 were set in concrete. At the end of each workday a ramp was installed in the pits and crews backfilled all voids between the vault boxes and pit excavations to avoid the possible entrapment of wildlife.

On July 29, an unanticipated cultural discovery was made on the right-of-way adjacent to the 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. After review

of the consultation report submitted, a NTP was issued by the CPUC on August 4 to continue work in the area of the unanticipated discovery. An archaeological monitor was onsite for the duration of the construction in the resource area and also monitored the backfill of the trench (see Figure 2).

Crews completed trenching and conduit installation operations along May School Road and completed the road crossing of North Livermore Avenue. Crews began trenching operations west of North Livermore Avenue this week. Traffic control plans and encroachment permit regulations were followed. Concrete was poured over completed installations. The trench was then backfilled with sub-soils up to base grade and then topped with the separated topsoils. Several locations along this segment have yet to be back-filled, which is expected to take place as the concrete cures. At the end of each workday, the contractor ramped the ends of the trench line and installed caps at the ends of each conduit.

Crews also continued trenching northbound along Dagnino Road and on August 23, crews began trenching east along the access road, which follows the alignment to the Transition Station, part of which lies within a wetland exclusion buffer and future wetland mitigation site for the Dublin Ranch Development. Based on documentation submitted by PG&E stating that the seasonal wetland east of Dagnino Road did not provide suitable habitat for sensitive species and the subject area will be graded for the creation of the Dublin Ranch Development mitigation site, the required 100-foot buffer was reduced. However, exclusion fencing was installed to prevent any construction activity from entering the mitigation site and subject seasonal wetland area. As an added protection measure, sandbags were also placed around the site (see Figure 3).

PG&E was initiated consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game regarding a temporary access route from Dagnino Road to the Transition Station. The proposed route is located within the construction corridor and would involve overland travel only; no extensive grading would be required. However, the proposed overland route crosses three drainages, one of which is US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. Even though the drainages are currently dry and do not contribute to any waterways in the area, PG&E has decided to bridge the crossings with steel plates rather than grade and fill any of the resources.

Crews completed grading and soil compaction operations at the new Transition Station. No new construction occurred at the Transition Station during the subject week. Previously installed silt fence was inspected along the west and north sides of the station landing.

**Environmental Compliance:**

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):**

No new NTPs were issued during the subject week.

**Variance Requests:**

On August 11, Variance Request #9 was submitted to extend the PSD laydown 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 initial bio-survey report was incomplete and a revised version was submitted on August 15. A recommendation regarding the request was provided to CPUC on August 18.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:**

None.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 08/28/03)

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 laydown 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 laydown 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 laydown 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.	8/15 – Revised bio-report submitted. 8/18 – Recommendation to CPUC.	



Figure 1 – Ramp installed for San Joaquin Kit Fox and other wildlife protection within the SPCC pond built at the Cayetano Substation, Phase Two.



Figure 2 – Trenching and conduit installation under the UAD along May School Road is complete. The contractor has backfilled soil up to the cultural resource , Phase Two.



Figure 3 – Reduced buffer zone for wetland habitat along the North side of the access road between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station, Phase Two. The PG&E trench line is on the opposite side of the access road from the resource.