Aspen
Environmental Group

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

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

Date: September 13, 2006

Subject: Weekly Report #124: September 3, 2006 – September 9, 2006

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet Coronado

Current construction of the PG&E Tri-Valley Project is on the Phase Three portion of the project. Opus Environmental is providing the Environmental Inspectors for PG&E (PG&E EIs). Opus is providing environmental, as well as biological monitoring and oversight, including conducting environmental training of all new crew personnel. Roadway improvement and installation were conducted by Granite Construction. The tower work was conducted by PG&E. The underground construction was engineered by Wilson Construction and was completed by Ranger Construction. Crane work was subcontracted to Sheedy Crane. Nexans crews are conducting the cable splicing and testing. Jensen PreCast and Wilson crews completed racking at the vault locations. The substation work is being engineered by Black & Veatch who subcontracted earthwork to Granite Construction. Atlas Wire crews have conducted overhead wire testing and switch gear testing. Vitale and Sons are installing irrigation line and landscaping outside and around the Substation wall. Martel Water Systems is conducting well drilling. Ranger and PG&E have contracted with North Valley Construction (NVC) to ensure that adequate erosion and sediment controls are installed and maintained. In addition NVC is conducting culvert, side slope and bank repair work.

Mainline construction of the project is almost complete. PG&E has scheduled Phase Three segment energization for September 29, 2006. To meet this deadline, crews will be working seven days a week. The construction of two additional mitigation areas remain and are tentatively scheduled to occur in the fall of this year.

Summary of Phase Three Activity:

Weather was warm and dry throughout the subject week. The CPUC EM conducted a tour of the construction site on September 7th.

All underground cable pulling work is now complete across the project. Cable splicing continued at vaults by Nexans crews. Nexans crews also worked on pothead installation at the Cayetano Substation. Wilson crews also worked at the Cayetano Substation during the subject week attaching jumpers (see Figure 1).

On Monday, May 15th, Wilson Construction re-erected the beam structure at the Transition Station. Per Opus, a "high-frequency line" was installed with the structure in an effort to prevent the beam movement previously caused by wind and resonance. During the subject week both PG&E and Wilson crews conducted grounding work at the Transition Station. Nexans crews conducted fiberwork and splicing (see Figure 2).

Along Road 5, previous road widening created loose dirt along the entire road length (see Figure 3). Road 5 runs parallel to Cayetano Creek where repeated sightings of California red-legged frog have occurred. During the subject week the CPUC EM asked what plans PG&E has for stabilizing the area and preventing the establishment of invasive weedy species in the disturbed soil. Opus responded that they will look into the issue.

Along Road 6, Opus provided that it appears that the burrowing owls have completed nesting activities and have moved away from the road. The owls have not been observed since August 10th. PG&E proposed to remove the buffer and contacted Marcia Grefsrud, with CDFG. On August 21st, Marcia Grefsrud replied that based on the recent field observations, the buffer removal was acceptable.

NVC crews completed restoration of the cut slope areas above Road 6 and hydro-seeded the area during the subject week. In addition, they placed geotextile matting over the seeded areas (see Figure 4). The matting was inspected and does not contain the mono-filament mesh that is prohibited by the USFWS BO. NVC re-contoured and seeded another side slope along Road 6 (see Figure 5). In addition, NVC crews installed a steel cage and poured concrete at a culvert inlet along Road 6 (see Figure 6).

On September 7th, Wilson crews reported a burrowing owl sighting in riprap near Vault 6 along Road 7. Opus surveyed the area and no owls were noted. Per Opus "additional surveying will be conducted if construction activities are to be conducted near Vault 6."

Grass seeding had occurred last year after installation of the underground line. However, some areas currently appear to need additional seeding prior to the rainy season in October of 2006.

Along Moller Road, NVC completed the restoration on the Tassajara Creek bank stabilization area (see Figure 7). Crews hydro-seeded and placed geotextile matting over the area. The matting was inspected and does not contain the mono-filament mesh that is prohibited by the USFWS BO. NVC finished repair work on culverts located along Moller Road and replaced rocks in the inlets and outlets. In addition, NVC crews removed previously installed erosion controls which are no longer necessary, including sand bags and straw wattles.

The engineered pond at the mitigation site still contains water, although the waterline has dropped significantly. Per Opus the water level is approximately 6-inches deep. Opus has been in communication with Mary Hammer of USFWS to gain clarifications on larval CTS and CRLF monitoring, as well as bull frog eradication protocols covered in the project Biological Opinion. During previous weeks, Kleinfelder Geotechnical Engineering conducted soil testing for the additional mitigation areas remaining to be constructed as part of the project.

At the North Dublin Substation, PG&E telecom crews conducted testing at the switchgear building.

During previous weeks, Vitale and Sons completed irrigation line work and planting trees outside and around the substation wall. Vitale and Sons continue to water the plantings. A Martel Water Systems crew had conducted well drilling for site irrigation; however, after drilling a very deep (over 500 hundred feet) well, they failed to find ground water. The crew abandoned the well location and grouted the hole. They will be drilling at another location at the opposite corner of the site once the county permits are received.

The project Biological Opinion (BO) conditions and requirements, resulting from continued correspondence with USFWS, had directed that biologists escort crews within 200 feet of known and potential California red-legged frog (CRLF) and California tiger salamander (CTS) habitat between October 31st and April 30th. Biologists are no longer escorting vehicles along Road 5 or Moller Road; however, these areas continue to be swept by a Biologist through out the day.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The CPUC EM observed that all Phase Three construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements.

Seven NCRs and eight Project Memoranda have been issued for the Phase Three portion of the project to date (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 9-13-06)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
PHASE THREE			
Project Memorandum	7/20/05	Crews have installed exclusion fencing as well as sediment fencing in areas with potential for spoils to slide in to sensitive areas. Numerous gaps were left in the fencing to allow moving cows. However, no exclusion signs have been installed in the gaps after repeated requests. In addition, the CTS exclusion zone was toured and no sensitive resource or exclusion signs to notify crews of the resource have been installed. Notifications were made to the PG&E EI. On July 14th, an operator was not aware of the 500-foot CTS exclusion zone and a 400-foot by 20-foot area was scraped within the zone coming with in 100 feet of the CTS burrow. The site Foreman when he realized what was occurring immediately stopped the operator.	Opus notified Mary Hammer of the USFWS in an e-mail.
NCR	7/26/05	A drainage off Manning Road was bridged by steel plates and the area extending upslope from the bridge had been graded up to and possibly within the drainage without an approved CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	CDFG notification required
NCR	7/26/05	Construction at Pole location 9, 10, 11, and 12 and use of associated access roads were started prior to the CPUC EM verifying that proper flagging and exclusion fencing had been installed as required by Project mitigation measures. Directly upslope of a CTS/CRLF breeding pond burrow clusters were not fenced off and the site was left unmonitored though construction was occurring within 200 feet of the pond. Crews were using new routes which were not previously surveyed or approved.	PG&E must properly flag and fence the work and access areas, and provide maps and survey results. Burrow clusters must be fenced for exclusion.
NCR	7/29/05	Crews graded the other side of the drainage referred to in an NCR issued 7/26/05. Note that a CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement has not been issued for the site.	CDFG notification required
Project Memorandum	8/21/05	Crews placed a dumpster outside of the project area and did not move it for three days.	Dumpster was removed 8/19/05
Project Memorandum	11/1/05	During the tour of Moller road on November 1st, the CPUC EM noted that a spoil pile located adjacent to Tassajara Creek lacked adequate protection. PG&E had been notified of the problem twice previously.	November 2nd, wattles had been installed around the spoils pile and silt fencing extended to further protect the creek.
NCR	11/2/05	During the field tour on November 2nd, 2005, the CPUC EM documented several related compliance problems regarding the lack of appropriate resource erosion protection as well as work within resource buffers outside of the appropriate time frames established in project agency permits. On November 2nd, at the Cayetano Creek crossing, ground disturbing activity had occurred within the 30-foot buffer established around potential California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander habitat which is prohibited after October 31st, as outlined in the project BO. At another area where the Ranger Construction crossed Cayetano Creek, just off of Road 5 the CPUC EM noted a lack of erosion protection. PG&E had been notified of the lack previously. At the Tassajara Creek bank stabilization area, the upslope erosion cloth installation as outlined in the USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) had not occurred by October 31st which is the deadline for the bank stabilization work in both the USFWS BO and the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement. PG&E had been repeatedly informed of the necessary erosion protection requirements as well as work deadlines.	PG&E EI was forthright that he unintentionally overlooked the BO buffer requirement. Opus took quick action and notified the USFWS of the work within the potential habitat buffer. Adequate erosion controls were installed by 11/4/05 Opus Environmental notified CDFG that the installation had not met the required deadline. The installation was completed 11/4/04.

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
PHASE THREE			
Project Memorandum	11/4/05	During the site tour of Road 5 on November 4th, the CPUC EM witnessed that at the end of the work day, although the road had been swept 20 minutes earlier by an approved biologist, the Granite crew proceeded to exit the site via Road 5 without being walked out. The CPUC EM was informed that PG&E informed Granite that they could proceed because the road had just been swept. Project Memo documented that vehicles shall be walked through areas as outlined by the BO and given the verbal recommendations set forth by USFWS.	The USFWS has approved the use of ATVs to escort vehicles which should streamline the walkthrough process.
NCR	11/10/05	The Project Biological Opinion conditions and requirements resulting from continued correspondence with USFWS direct that biologist escorts are needed within and at some locations beyond 200 feet from known and potential CRLF and CTS habitat past October 31st and November 9th, a Granite truck entered Road 5 unescorted and that several Granite trucks had left the Substation site on Moller Road which also lies within 200 feet of sensitive habitat, unescorted. November 10th, when the Opus EM arrived on-site at 6:15 am a Granite operator had already entered the site via Road 5 unescorted. Please note that Opus has repeatedly notified Granite of the necessity for escorts through sensitive areas and has documented the unescorted vehicle movement as non-compliance issues.	Large signs have been posted along the road side in plain view directing all project vehicles and equipment to stop and wait for an escort. In addition radios were placed at the signs to enable contractors to call for an escort. PG&E representatives stayed at the Road 5 entrance and along Moller Road to ensure that all project personnel stopped and waited for biologist escorts.
NCR	11/15/05	Opus informed the CPUC EM that on the evening of November 14th and on November 15th two Granite employees decided to drive along Moller without the required escort. These mark repeated documented incidents of Granite personnel and/or Granite subcontractors traveling without the required escort.	Granite construction did not work 11/17 and 11/18. A meeting was held on 11/17. An additional training will be held. The two Granite personnel have been dismissed. PG&E has installed gates with locks and a monitor has been placed at the gate with sign-in sheets.
Project Memorandum	11/29/05	Upon inspection of the Mitigation Site Access Road the CPUC EM noted that the installed erosion controls were in serious need of maintenance and repair. Rain was occurring and was forecasted to continue for the next four days. The CPUC EM notified the site EI about the problem. Upon returning to the location on the next day the CPUC EM documented that no repairs had been made. In a different area along Road 7, a build-up of sediment has occurred around erosion controls near the Vault installation, and maintenance is needed. In addition to the above issues, culverts installed on Road 6 looked as though they were colleting materials and showed potential to be clogged. Under this Memo, information is requested from PG&E regarding the effectiveness of the installation, how they plan to clear the materials, and how further build up will be prevented .	Repairs to the MSA Road erosion controls had been made following issuing the memo.
NCR	12/15/05	On December 14th, The CPUC EM discovered that monofilament erosion control matting had been installed along/adjacent to the Tassajara Creek tributary which runs through the Mitigation Site. The USFWS BO disallows use of such matting. The PG&E EI decided to take the installation in the presence of the CPUC EM. PG&E was contacted and the CPUC EM was informed that PG&E was aware of the issue and that the matting had been installed the day prior on Tuesday, December 13th. PG&E had informed the contractor that the matting had to be removed and plans were set to remove the matting on Thursday, December 15th. Within the NCR, information was requested from PG&E as to why the CPUC was not informed of the flawed installation. In addition, NCR information was requested to explain why was the matting removal was planned for two days after the discovery and not immediately.	PG&E responded on December 15th, that at the time of the initial discovery on December 13th, it was one half hour before sunset and there was not enough time to conduct the removal and exit the site given the existing work hour regulations. The crew which installed the matting was previously scheduled to return on December 16th, so the removal was planned for that time.

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
PHASE THREE			
Project Memorandum	12/20/05	An informational memo was issued on December 20th to document the findings of a project wide walkthrough conducted December 19th and 20th to review the installed erosion controls. A large storm event had occurred prior to the walkthrough thus erosion control functioning as well as well as maintenance needs were assessed. In most areas the controls worked well, however several areas had sediment build up and other areas were in need of repair.	By the end of the subject week, Granite and North Valley Construction repaired and maintained the erosion controls outlined in the memo.
Project Memorandum	6/26/06	On June 26 the CPUC EM witnessed a Granite Construction truck traveling above the project speed requirements on Moller Road heading out of the project site.	Granite gathered all crew members and made a call into the off site office to remind crew members to adhere to Project speed limits.
Project Memorandum	6/29/06	On June 27, a killdeer nest had been stepped on, resulting in the damage of three eggs during construction related activities at the Cayetano Substation. This marks the second occurrence of nest destruction by project related activities in three weeks. On June 9th a nest was disturbed by movement of conduit at the Wilson Yard, hatchlings were taken to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and were rehabilitated. They were later identified to be European Starlings. In both cases the areas and and/or stored materials were not cleared for nests prior to crews entering and working/moving equipment and materials in the area.	In both cases crews immediately notified the Project environmental staff and reporting was made to agency representatives. Care was also taken to salvage nest remains and hatchlings.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Tri-Valley Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 9/13/06)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	September 12, 2002	Phase One: Construction on of six different sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the City of Pleasanton, City of Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County.
#2	October 10, 2002	Phase One: Construction of six additional sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the Cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County
#3	December 12, 2002	Phase One: Construct the final sections of the Phase One portion Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project, within the City of Pleasanton.
#4	May 5, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of the new 5-acre Cayetano Substation located at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and May School Road.
#5	July 14, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of 2.3 miles of underground transmission line installation extending from the Cayetano Substation to the North Livermore Transition Station to be constructed at the Contra Costa–Newark Transmission Line Corridor
UAD NTP		Phase Two: Allow construction within the exclusion boundary of the May School road cultural resource discovery area.
#6	June 29, 2005	Phase Three: Construction of the overhead transmission line, the transition station, all roadway and vault pad grading, and preparation of 0.33-acre mitigation area.
#7	August 4, 2005	Phase Three: Underground construction and preparation of the 0.94-acre mitigation area.
#8	August 18, 2005	Phase Three: North Dublin Substation.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Phase Three Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 9/13/06)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
11	7/7/05	Variance to allow travel through homestead archaeological site C-Livermore-1H.	Completed	7/8/05
12	7/15/05	Variance to allow the use of staging areas as outlined in road plan drawings along the Phase 3 alignment.	Completed	7/26/05
13	7/29/05	Variance to use three staging areas. Two are located along the Moller Ranch Road. The last is located adjacent to the Cayetano Substation.	Incorporated into NTP #7	
14	8/12/05	Variance to use three access roads, and a laydown area.	Completed	8/19/05
15	8/19/05	Variance to use two laydown areas and one access road near road 6.	Completed	8/26/05
16	9/15/05	Variance for use of a temporary overland access connector route to access two vault installation sites	Completed	9/19/05
17	10/25/05	Variance for installation of guard structures at Collier Canyon Road and grading a work space for a boom truck near the Dublin Substation.	Completed	11/4/05
18	11/3/05	On November 4, 2005, PG&E submitted Variance Request #18 requesting a variance to change the surface treatment of Moller Road from chip seal to asphalt concrete.	Completed	11/8/05
19	11/3/05	Variance Request #19 requesting a variance to resource buffer zones outlined in Applicant Proposed Measures 7.6 and 7.7, deferring to the Project's Agency permit conditions	Completed	11/8/05
20	6/26/06	Extra work space at Vault locations 2, 3, 4, and 5.	Completed	6/29/06

TEWS REQUESTS:

No Temporary Extra Work Space (TEWS) requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 4 presents the Phase Three TEWS Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 4
TEWS REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 9/13/06)

TEWS Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Dates
PHASE THREE				
1	6/26/05	50-ft by 300-ft area adjacent to Vaults 2 and 3 along North Livermore Blvd. No sensitive resources occur in the areas.	Approved	6/26/06 through 7/2506

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS: None reported.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1 – Nexans crews worked on pothead installation and Wilson crews attached jumpers at the Cayetano Substation, September 7, 2006.

Figure 2 – Transition Station, September 7, 2006.

Figure 3 – Loose dirt along Road 5, September 7, 2006.

Figure 4 – Restored and reseeded area along Road 6, September 7, 2006.

Figure 5 – NVC crews re-contoured and seeded a side slope along Road 6, September 7, 2006.

Figure 6 – NVC Crews set a steel cage at a culver inlet along Road 6, September 7, 2006.

Figure 7 – Restored Tassajara Creek bank stabilization area, September 7, 2006.