



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 12, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #74: August 28, 2005 – September 3, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Notice to Proceed (NTP) #6 was issued by CPUC for portions of Phase Three construction on June 29, 2005. Under NTP #6, construction of the following Phase Three components can occur: all roadway and vault pad grading, construction of the overhead transmission line and transition station, and preparation of the 0.33 acre mitigation area. NTP #7 was issued by CPUC on August 4, 2005 allowing construction of the underground component to commence and preparation of the 0.94 acre mitigation area. NTP #8 was issued by CPUC on August 18, for construction of the North Dublin Substation. Opus Environmental will be 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. Road improvement and installation is being conducted by Granite Construction. The tower work is being conducted by PG&E. The underground construction is being engineered by Wilson Construction and completed by Ranger Construction.

Summary of Phase Three Activity:

Weather was clear and warm throughout the subject week. During the subject week, the PG&E EIs conducted environmental trainings as new crew members joined the project.

The project mitigation measures require that the CPUC EM field validate the flagging of the right-of-way and resource exclusion boundaries prior to the start of construction. Additional areas which had been flagged and cleared during the week included the areas covered under Variance Request #15 including two laydown areas adjacent to Road 6 and an access road which lies parallel to Road 6 (see Figure 1). At Station 136+50 the area was cleared for installation of a temporary culvert within the drainage. Survey results were submitted and proper erosion controls were installed. These areas were verified by the CPUC EM prior to construction.

Construction of the underground portion continued north of the Cayetano Substation on North Livermore Avenue, finishing up the excavation, conduit installation, and backfill of the second trench of the double circuit line. Crews have trenched through the drainages and installed conduit. Work occurred from Stations 42+10 through 44+00 and Stations 50+25 through 86+44. Crews initially used a disk to break up the soil and then were able to strip the top soil and stockpile it along the side of the right-of-way. Excavation is being conducted using a trenching machine. Two trenches are being installed 15 feet apart as part of the double circuit project. Underground construction is currently limited to the area between the Cayetano Substation and Access Road 5, which crosses the alignment of Access Road 7 in several places. In order to avoid impacting an oak tree which lies along the underground construction parallel to Manning Road, the alignment and disturbance area was shifted slightly (less than 20 feet) within the existing survey corridors.

Granite Construction continued work along Access Road 7 (see Figure 2) during the subject week. Construction of this access road is necessary for equipment transport for the underground portion, which is being constructed by another contractor. The right-of-way was disked and graded, and upon completion will be an improved permanent road.

Granite Construction continued to work on the Moller Road access. Two earth movers and a grader are being used to shape and construct the access road. The area is being adequately watered by two water trucks. Crews continue to excavate wet material from the road and have set it along the right-of-way for storage. It is unlikely that the wet material will be used for backfill and may have to be hauled off-site. The wet area was backfilled with rock in order to construct the access road. One biological monitor was present during the Moller Road construction. During a site tour, the CPUC EM noted that the installed sediment fencing required maintenance and repairs, and build up of spoils needed to be removed (see Figure 3). The PG&E EM was notified and the repairs were made. The barn owl nest was monitored for signs of activity and disturbance. According to project biologists, the owls have fledged from the burrow. On Wednesday, August 31, Marcia Grefsrud of the CDFG provided authorization for work to be conducted within the 100-foot buffer area where the nesting barn owls had been. A California red-legged frog (CRLF) was sighted on Moller Road at approximate Station 27+00. Both Mary Hammer of USFWS and Marcia Grefsrud of the CDFG were notified. Several CRLF were identified in a pond approximately 80 feet off of Moller at Station 27+00 on August 30. CRLF have been noted previously in this area.

Granite crews continued work in the mitigation pond site (see Figure 4). A PG&E EI was present during all the work in the area in order to avoid any impact to the Congdon's tarplant. At least two populations of the rare plant were identified adjacent to the mitigation pond site and these areas were fenced off with orange fence for avoidance. One population, which was within the access road alignment, will not be impacted because crews have reconfigured the construction of the road in order to avoid all rare plants.

PG&E crews continued to work on Towers 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, and 12 during the subject week (see Figure 5). Materials are being transported to and from the work sites via helicopter or truck. A biological monitor was monitoring the tower crews during the week. Permission to reduce the 250-foot buffer for the active burrowing owl burrow along the access road to Towers 3-6 was given by CDFG. Crews can continue to use the access road, which is within 240 feet of the burrow, given the area is fenced to keep crews on the road.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

On August 29th, a driver for RMC Pacific drove 15 feet outside of the marked right-of-way at station 61+00. The contractor Ranger reminded the driver to stay within the right-of-way bounds. PG&E informed the CPUC EM of the incident.

On August 31st, the CPUC EM noted that the silt fence was in need of maintenance along Moller Road. The PG&E EI was immediately informed and the issue was addressed during the subject week.

PG&E is preparing a mitigation plan for the rare Congdon's tarplant found within the project area. The Congdon's tarplant has been identified along Access Roads 5 and 6, in an adjacent storage area, along an overland access road, as well as within the mitigation pond site. PG&E submitted Variance Request #15 on August 19th for use of two staging areas and an access route parallel to Road 6. A few Congdon's tarplants cannot be avoided in the requested areas. PG&E consulted with CDFG and received approval to enter the requested areas. The CPUC approved Variance Request 15 on August 27th. Construction of Road 5 will impact a larger number of Congdon's tarplants and CDFG approval is pending. A meeting is planned with PG&E and CDFG representatives and botanists in the field to review the plant populations and Road 5 construction on Thursday, September 8.

Previously, the PG&E EI and biologist identified a barn owl nest containing a nesting pair and fledglings along the right-of-way. The owls have since fledged. Subsequent correspondence with the CDFG has occurred. The established 100-foot exclusion zone has been reduced to allow construction along Moller Road including the upcoming bank stabilization work.

Sightings of California red legged were reported along Moller Road. In one case, a frog was found immediately adjacent to Moller Road and was relocated out of the work area by the appropriate biological monitors. USFWS and CDFG were notified of the sightings and relocation of these sensitive species.

An active burrowing owl colony was identified along the access road to Towers 3-6. Consultations were made to CDFG and a fence was installed to keep project vehicles on the access road. The buffer was reduced slightly to 240 feet to allow construction to proceed. Project biologists have identified seven owls in the burrows and continue to monitor the owls for signs of disturbance.

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

Three Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) and two Project Memoranda (PMs) have been issued for the Phase Three portion of the project to date (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 09-12-05)

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 14, 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 within 100 feet of the CTS borrow. 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-ft 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

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

A second meeting is planned with PG&E and Marcia Grefstrud and Gene Colley for September 8 to discuss the rare Congdon's tarplants found within the project area. PG&E supplied numerous e-mail correspondence records with CDFG regarding work around the Congdon's tarplant populations as well as the barn owl nest located adjacent to Moller Road.

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 9-12-05)

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 and 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 new 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 9/12/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
11	7/7/05	Variance to allow travel through home- stead 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

Photographs



Figure 1 – Access route parallel to Road 6, August 31, 2005.



Figure 2 – Granite construction along Road 7, August 31, 2005.



Figure 3 – Sediment fencing in need of repairs and removal of spoils along Moller Road, August 31, 2005.



Figure 4 – Mitigation site, August 31, 2005.



Figure 5 – Tower 1 construction, August 31, 2005.