



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 27, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #1: April 17, 2005 – April 23, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site April 18, 19, and 20 at the Atlantic-Del Mar project location to monitor construction activities.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work will be done by PG&E. The PG&E crews work Mondays through Thursdays. The weather was sunny throughout the subject week. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kirkpatrick, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. At least one PG&E EI was on-site during daytime activities to inspect environmental compliance at the work site. Kevin also served as the project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, ongoing bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation of sediment controls.

On Monday, April 18, the area north of the Atlantic Substation was toured (see Figure 1) and it was noted that the edges of the access road had been mowed, and so had the foundation areas of Pole Sites 1 through 5. No sediment barriers had been installed to protect the vernal pools. The Essex EI stated that the augur dirt was not going to be stored onsite and said that he didn't think sediment controls around the vernal pools were necessary. The CPUC EM informed the EI that the USFWS determination of No Take letter outlines measures to protect the vernal pools near Poles 2 through 5 and that a variance, including USFWS consultation, would be required if PG&E wishes to change the requirement. The resource areas at the site had been flagged and the augur equipment was tracked across the access road and parked on the Pole 2 site. During transport, the augur equipment lightly disturbed the access road and an approximately one foot wide area adjacent to the road which looked somewhat similar to the vernal pools, but was not identified to be a pool or resource area during surveys (see Figure 2).

On Tuesday, April 19, the Essex EI installed erosion controls to protect the vernal pool resources (see Figure 3). Burrow/CTS aestivation area surveys were conducted for the first five pole location sites and a brief survey report was submitted, sighting that no burrows were observed.

On April 20, pole foundation auguring began at Pole 1 along the west side of the Atlantic Substation, just outside of the fence. No resources are noted at this site (see Figure 4). An archeologist was on-site to monitor for cultural discoveries. All spoils were being placed in a dump truck and taken to the Forward Landfill, a Class II disposal facility. During the day, Jim Finn of CDFG was contacted to discuss ongoing bird survey and reporting requirements. Jim stated that if raptor nesting behavior is noted within 250 feet of the right-of-way, and PG&E wishes to reduce the buffer, he wants to be consulted.

On April 21, crews finished auguring the Pole 1 foundation hole; and moved the augur to the Pole 2 location. PG&E will begin construction there on Monday, April 25. In the afternoon, the CPUC EM spoke with Betty Warne of USFWS and informed her that work had begun near the sensitive vernal pool areas of concern to USFWS.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

Burrow/CTS aestivation area surveys were conducted for the first five pole location sites and a brief survey report was submitted April 19, prior to construction, sighting that no burrows were observed.

After notification by the CPUC EM, required erosion control was installed by PG&E/Essex at the vernal pool resources in the area.

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

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work has not begun. The trenching and conduit installation and has been contracted to Wilson Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

None

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 1 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date.

TABLE 1
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 4-27-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
#2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) or Project Memorandums (PMs) have been issued for the project to date.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On April 14, PG&E submitted Variance Request #1 to modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30. Revisions to Variance Request #1 were submitted on April 19 and 22, and the CPUC EM field validated the revised request with the Essex EI on April 26. The request is under review.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 4-27-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Under review	

Upcoming Items:

A meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 27, to discuss the upcoming underground work and schedule; however, a start date has not been set.

Agency Personnel Contacts:

On April 20, Jim Finn of CDFG was contacted to discuss on-going bird survey and reporting requirements. Jim stated that if raptor nesting behavior is noted within 250 feet of the right-of-way, and PG&E wishes to reduce the buffer, he wants to be consulted.

On April 21, the CPUC EM spoke with Betty Warne of USFWS and informed her that work had begun near the sensitive vernal pool areas of concern to USFWS.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Area north of the Atlantic Substation, April 18, 2005.
Note the patches of yellow flowers which coincide with the sensitive vernal pool areas.



Figure 2 – During transport the augur equipment lightly disturbed the access road and an approximately one-foot-wide area adjacent to the road which looked somewhat similar to the vernal pools, but was not identified to be a pool or resource area during surveys.



Figure 3 – Vernal pool area (foreground) protected by installed erosion controls surrounding Pole #4. April 19, 2005.



Figure 4 – Crews drilling Pole #1 just outside the Atlantic substation on the west side. April 20, 2005.