



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 13, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #25: October 2, 2005 – October 8, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs):** Heather Stiles and Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitors (EMs) Heather Stiles and Anne Sweet toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on October 5 and 7. The weather was clear and warm. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

### **OVERHEAD:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is planned to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the remaining poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations except Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized (likely several months from now.) The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion control remains in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas.

The CPUC EM observed that the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The underground work, including trenching and conduit installation, has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted as well. Crews continued trenching, conduit installation, and backfilling during the subject week. Trenching occurred from approximate Stations 21+00 to 29+00.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work will encounter several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. A cultural monitor was on-site for the excavation of trench line north of the Vault #2 area from Stations 24+00 to 29+00. Per the PG&E EI, no unanticipated culturally important discoveries occurred; however, three concrete structures were observed. The monitor documented the findings and they were removed from the trench line.

The Zayas crew completed the excavation, conduit installation, and concrete pour within Drainage #30, approximate Station 53+00 to 55+50 (see Figure 1). Backfill of the excavation is planned for early next week. The dam and pump preparations were installed (see Figures 2 and 3); however, on Sunday, October 2, it was discovered that the pumps, which were controlled by sensors, stopped functioning. Zayas did not regularly monitor the pump system over the weekend. Due to the pump failure, water from the drainage was not successfully pumped around the work area, and a build up and overflow of the sandbag dam occurred. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement conditions require that water flow be maintained to support downstream aquatic resources. Due to the pump failure, downstream flow was not maintained. The PG&E EI was notified of the issue and the trench was dewatered (per the PG&E EI, approximately 20 gallons) into a depression adjacent to the drainage area. Please note that the second downstream dam was not breached and no contaminated or sediment laden water was allowed to flow downstream from the work area. The contractor reinforced the first dam with additional sandbags. The crew committed to monitor the functioning of the pumps at regular intervals. The PG&E EI documented the issue in the weekly report; however, at the time of the occurrence, immediate notifications to neither the CPUC EM nor CDFG were made. A follow up Incident Report was submitted by Essex on October 6. Per the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement, all work within the crossings must be completed by October 15.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

According to PG&E, construction specifications for the project, topsoil segregation and replacement is required. Top soils are being separated and stored adjacent to the trench line. Sub soils from the trench line and vault excavation are being stored at the staging area next to the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm.

Moving ahead of the trench line, Zayas crews continued to remove weeds in compliance with PG&E's weed mitigation plan. Weed debris is being collected and disposed of off site.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Immediate notifications were not made to CPUC and CDFG regarding the pump failure and dam breach at Drainage #30.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were inspected and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas.

Straw wattles were installed around large spoils piles at laydown areas and adjacent to the right-of-way.

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

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
 (Updated 10-14-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 10-14-05)

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.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 10-14-05)

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.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber-tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

**UPCOMING ITEMS:**

The horizontal bore is scheduled to begin in the third week of October.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Concrete pour over the conduit installation within Drainage #30, October 6, 2005.



**Figure 2** – Dam and water pump system within Drainage #30 upstream of the work area, October 6, 2005.



**Figure 3-** Dam downstream of the excavation and water pumped back into Drainage #30, October 6, 2005.