



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** November 10, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #29: October 30, 2005 – November 5, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Anne Sweet toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on November 3. Light rains occurred toward the end of the subject week. 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, ongoing 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 scheduled to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2, and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. 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 controls remain 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, except for near the Pole #9 area. The burrows at this location have been marked for avoidance.

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 are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

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

The underground work 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 during the subject week from Stations 37+90 to 40+61, through the Amtrak parking lot at the corner of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue (see Figure 1). The contractor had a mechanical sweeper on-site and cleaned the construction area. Conduit installation occurred and Flowable Thermal Concrete (FTC) was poured between Stations 36+50 to 39+24.

During the previous weeks, trenching was initiated at three different areas. However, unstable materials were encountered that were not conducive to providing a stable trench for conduit. Trenching was halted at these locations until a method to stabilize the bank is determined. The crews moved onto other areas.

Previously, groundwater was encountered at approximate Stations 36+40 to 38+10. A Baker tank was delivered to the site into which the groundwater was pumped. Samples were collected for testing and preliminary results showed elevated organic diesel at 160 ppb; 50 ppb is the established limit. Per the PG&E EI, Essex consulted with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) with regard to discharge. The RWQCB NPDES group representative gave information that the project Low Threat Discharge Permit does not allow for the type of discharge proposed. After several consultations, RWQCB recommended that the source of the site/water contamination be investigated prior to pursuing the proposed discharge permit for the water regardless of whether it is treated or untreated. A follow up site visit by RWQCB occurred on October 31<sup>st</sup>, and PG&E decided that the most cost effective way to deal with the water is to dispose of it at a sanitary water facility. Evergreen has been contracted for the water disposal activities.

Crews prepared the area for work at the Vault 4 location north of Midas Avenue.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters 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. Per the PG&E EI, no unanticipated cultural discoveries occurred.

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.

In preparation for the up-coming bore work, crews installed silt fence at the Wetland #1 site around the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) entrance pit location for approximately 200-feet to the south.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

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

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were inspected and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas, including Seasonal Drainages #5, #6, #30, Ephemeral Drainage #007 and #12.

During the subject week, crews installed silt fence at the Wetland #1 site around the HDD entrance pit location for approximately 200-feet to the south.

Fiber rolls were installed and/or maintained along the right-of-way and at the Kinder-Morgan Yard around spoil materials. The BMPs selected for each site must be able to impound any material that may be transported during a storm event. Depending on the volume of the spoil pile and the other BMPs utilized, fiber rolls may not be adequate to prevent sediment transport.

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 11-10-05)

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 11-10-05)

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 11-10-05)

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 HDD bore had again been delayed and the crew is now scheduled to mobilize to the site the week of November 15. In addition to the regular environmental training, the PG&E EI has planned a tailgate prior to boring operations to discuss the bore plans, the Frac-out Contingency Plan, and all applicable mitigation measure requirements, including schedule.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

A RWQCB site visit occurred October 31 regarding contaminated groundwater disposal.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Trenching work in the Amtrak parking lot at the corner of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue, November 3, 2005.