



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** February 17, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #43: February 5, 2006 – February 11, 2006  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Jeremy Sofonia, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI is conducting environmental trainings for all new crewmembers. 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 needs to be completed are Transition Poles #9 and #10. The foundation for Transition Pole #10 was modified to accommodate the hardware design requirements and the transition pole was erected. The overhead line now connects Transition Pole #10 all the way through to Pole #24 at the Atlantic Substation. The Transition Structure #9 Pole was erected during the subject week (see Figure 1).

All of the towers have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These towers will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized.

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. The CPUC EM periodically verifies the condition of the erosion control devices.

### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be 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. Additional silt fence was installed in order to reinforce existing silt fence next to the rutted access road on the west bank of Antelope Creek.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

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

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted the ground construction work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work has been subcontracted to Cherrington. Interstate Safety has been subcontracted by Wilson to complete conduit installation.

Zayas Construction completed the excavation of the trench line from Vault #3 through Rocklin Road. The crew hand-dug around all existing utilities throughout the street and placed steel plates over the trench at the end of each workday. Storm water continues to fill the trench. Crews have been discharging storm water through a filter bag to overland areas devoid of resources. Conduit installation has not been completed within the trench, but should be by the end of next week. Just north of Rocklin Road, during trenching crews encountered problematic soils which showed a lack of stability in terms of being able to support the underground line (see Figure 2). Wilson is currently engineering plans to deal with the soil conditions. Meanwhile construction crews have moved to other areas of the project. Orange safety fencing has been placed around the trench.

At the beginning of the subject week spoils piles off Midas Road adjacent to Drainage #30 had remained large. A City of Rocklin representative toured the site during the previous subject week and asserted that the piles needed to be removed. The City of Rocklin inspector again visited the site on February 5<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the piles posed a public safety hazard and should be removed immediately and that a failure to remove the piles would result in a revocation of the City's encroachment permit. Crews started moving the spoils by the end of the subject week. Erosion controls have been installed around the piles and continue to be monitored.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18<sup>th</sup>, were completed in early-December. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits and demobilized on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line. During the subject week, the underground crews worked on the tie-ins located at the bore entrance and exit pits. One joint of the pipe at the entrance pit was cut off, at approximately Station 8+00. Following this procedure at the bore entrance pit required encroachment onto Wetland #2. This encroachment has been reviewed and approved under mitigation agreements and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits. A mandrel proofing will be completed prior to concluding the tie-in processes. Per the PG&E EI, dewatering was implemented during these work sessions; water was contained into two Baker tanks on site. All stored water will be manifested and removed from the project site by an approved disposal company.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

Project surface water will be discharged through a filterbag in vegetated areas devoid of resources. Water near the bore entry and exit pit tie-in areas will be contained into Baker tanks rather than being discharged to the sensitive adjacent areas.

During previous weeks, the PG&E EI issued non-compliances to Wilson Construction due to the continued improper/minimal performance and maintenance of BMPs throughout the project. In response, Wilson Construction has hired a third party company to provide on-call erosion control maintenance and installation of additional BMPs throughout the remainder of the construction process.

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, an environmental inspector was on site during all excavation completed from the crosswalk located on the south side of Rocklin Road beginning at the Amtrak parking lot and through the completed trench line into the west-bound traffic lane of Rocklin Road. There were no unanticipated discoveries made during the work.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR and two Project Memoranda have been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS** (Updated 02-17-06)

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.
Project Memo	1-6-06	PG&E contractors mechanically pumped the water from the casing of the underground conduit into Wetland #1 through a filter bag without adequate testing. Wetland #1 is under the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.	Dewatering from the pipe is being conducted into Baker tanks. Test results and subsequent action are pending. The ACOE has been notified.
Project Memo	1-6-06	Large spoil piles are being stored in close proximity to Seasonal Drainage #30 without adequate erosion control measures, which is a violation of APM 7-2. The erosion control along the drainage was in disrepair, which led to silt from the spoil piles being emptied into the CDFG drainage. Siltation entering the drainage is a violation of Condition #2 of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	Crews reinforced the erosion control along Seasonal Drainage #30. The CDFG has been notified. A decision to move the spoil piles is being considered by PG&E.

**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 02-17-06)

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 02-17-06)

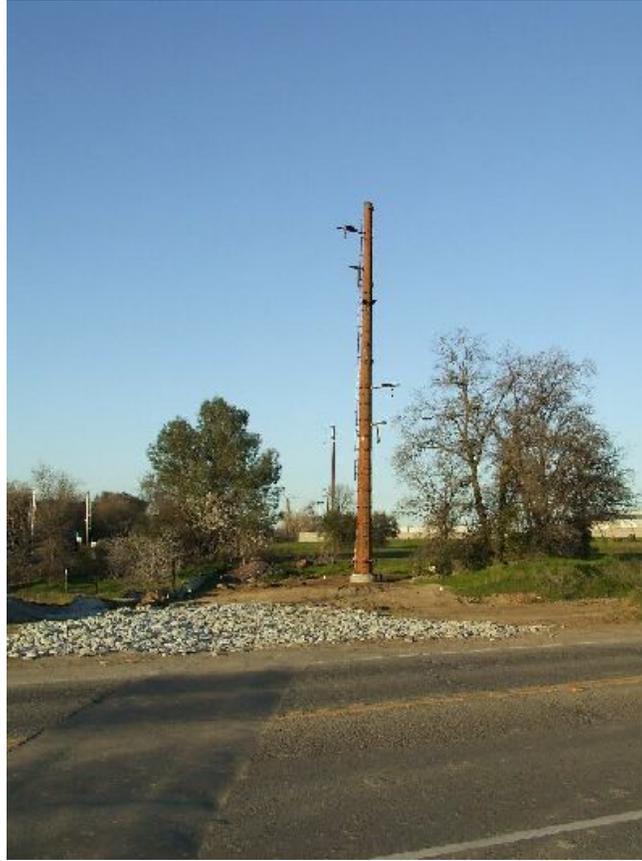
Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	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:** None.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

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## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Transition Pole #9 north of Midas Road, February 10, 2006.



**Figure 2** – Excavation north of Rocklin Road, February 10, 2006.