



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E – TRI-VALLEY 2002 CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 17, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #30: April 7, 2003 – April 13, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Summary of Activity:

Weather was overcast with scattered rain throughout the subject week. Erosion control was inspected project wide and repairs were made where needed. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) conducted several environmental trainings of contractor and subcontractor personnel, as well as site visitors and inspectors during the subject week. Wildlife spring breeding seasons are occurring. The CPUC EM paid special attention to raptor habitat and possible nests, as well as ground surveys for burrowing owl habitat along the right-of-way.

For the area north of the Arroyo del Valle extending to the Vineyard Substation, vault installation and tie-ins had been completed and the area compacted and re-contoured. However, installed conduit proofing showed that a segment of conduit needed to be repaired. During the subject week, crews excavated an area north of the Arroyo del Valle, the concrete casing was broken apart and the line repaired. Short-term erosion controls were installed between the excavation and the north bank of the Arroyo del Valle. Crews set fresh concrete, backfilled and re-compacted the area, and have proofed the new conduit segment.

Trenching and conduit installation was completed along New Vineyard Road westward from the Vault 14 location and across the intersection with “Old” Vineyard Avenue. Crews also completed trenching and installation within “Old” Vineyard Avenue from the Vault 15 location eastward toward the intersection. The areas were then backfilled and compacted. Crews have completed trenching and conduit installation from the Vault 16 location to the Vault 17 location, and from the Vault 17 location to south of the Arroyo del Valle with concrete being poured over the tie-in by the end of the subject week (see Figures 1 and 2). Crews were also on-site stringing conduit within “Old” Vineyard Avenue between Vaults 16 and Vaults 17 (see Figure 3). Crews were on-site splicing installed transmission line at Vaults 8 and 2. Throughout the “Old” Vineyard Avenue area, crews continued restoration along the right-of-way. Completed street trench areas were re-paved. At the end of each workday, all open trench was covered with steel plates and the areas swept clean. Traffic Control Plans were implemented.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Mueller Contractor Yard. All vehicles and equipment were being kept within the yard and the extra workspace area adjacent to the yard approved for use per Variance #5.

At New Vineyard Road, directional-drilling operations continue at the bridged unnamed tributary that crosses the roadway. The CPUC EM inspected the installation of erosion controls and frac-out contingency containment and clean-up equipment for the drilling operation. Crews completed the southern bore on Friday, April 11. The High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) casing already packed with conduit was pulled back through the hole. No frac-outs were observed during the subject week. Operations are running smoothly and the site is being kept clean. Due to deadline concerns, Megan Bracker the Essex PM contacted the CPUC EM about the necessity of 24-hour work at the bore. Per previous correspondence with Greg Martinelli of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG),

work at the bore was allowed during daylight hours only. Essex submitted a 24-hour work proposal package to the CDFG and on Tuesday April 15, CDFG responded with approval for the 24-hour work contingent on specific lighting and monitoring requirements as well as frac-out contingency protocol.

The CPUC EM inspected the Red Tail Hawk's nest along the right-of-way near Vault 10. The PG&E biologist surveyed the nest area, as well as the entire Phase One project route. Survey findings showed that the Red Tail Hawk of concern is a juvenile and the observed nesting behavior is a practice exercise for future nesting. Therefore the nest is not active. Brandon Liddell removed the exclusion signs. However, during the project wide survey, an active Red Tail Hawk's nest was identified along the project right-of-way along the Zone 7 Access Road east of Highway 84 at Station 61+00 (see Figure 4). Exclusion signs were erected. Construction and some restoration activities have already been conducted through the area.

Boring operations have been completed under Highway 84. Conduit has been strung through the bore holes. Crews have begun tie-ins to the mainline conduit on the west side of Highway 84. Overland dewatering continues as defined in the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved plan. The water has effectively percolated through the basin area without overflow.

Within the area between Highway 84 and the Transition Station, restoration and grading work continued. Grapevines row extensions are being installed up to the underground installation. Crews were on-site stringing fiber optic through the installation. All work within the Red Tail Hawk nest exclusion area at Station 61+00 is being avoided.

At the Transition Station, connections to the existing Contra Costa-Newark transmission line, which overhangs the station area, have been made to the erected station poles. Crews completed installation of switching equipment and have finished conduit stringing from the underground installation up the pole supports (see Figure 5). On April 7, very deep holes were augured into the foundation pad and grounding wires were installed. The current grading at the site does not conform the engineering plans. Crews were on-site re-grading the foundation pad to a two percent slope. On April 11, crews started putting up fence poles around the station area. The CPUC EM checked erosion controls at the site, which appeared in good repair. Trucks and applicable equipment were being kept outside of exclusion boundaries at the Station site.

Environmental Compliance:

For all operations, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in EIR and other permitting requirements.

On April 9, Essex Environmental notified Aspen Environmental Group that PG&E intends to energize Phase 1 of the Tri-Valley Project on May 22nd. The pre-energization notice was provided in accordance with Mitigation Measure PS-3. On April 22, Essex Environmental mailed "Notices of Planned Energization" to residences/businesses within 300 feet of the Tri-Valley Project, Phase 1.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

Numerous pre-construction compliance submittals were provided and reviewed during the subject week for Phase Two of the Tri-Valley Project. A tour of the Phase Two area was also conducted.

Variance Requests: None.

Agency Personnel Contacts: None.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 04-17-03)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	10/3/02	Temporary storage of bore pit spoils on the north side of the Arroyo del Valle bore crossing Stations 304+00 to 306+00.	Completed	10/17/02
2	12/19/02	40 feet of extra work space was requested on the south, east and west sides of the north bore pit associated with the Arroyo Del Valle jack and bore to install a sound barrier around boring operations, so that 24-hour construction could occur.	Completed	1/6/03
3	01/29/03	Approximate 200' by 300' extra workspace area east of the Isabel Ave jack & bore.	Completed	2/18/03
4	01/29/03	Approximate 120' by 320' extra workspace area north of the Hwy 84 jack & bore, and an 80' by 200' area south of the Hwy 84 bore.	Completed	2/18/03
5	02/12/03	Approximate 2.6-acre expansion of the approved Mueller Contractor Yard, City of Pleasanton.	Completed	2/25/03



Figure 1
Trench tie-in south of the Arroyo bore.



Figure 2
Steel plate cover removal of the trench within "Old" Vineyard Avenue.



Figure 3
Preparations for transmission line stringing from the Vault 16 location to the Vault 17 location.



Figure 4
Red Tailed Hawk nest identified across from Station 61+00 (nest is mass located just left of center of the photograph).



Figure 5
Continued work at the Transition Station.