



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August 20, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #48: August 11, 2003 – August 17, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet and Jenny Slaughter

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather was clear throughout the subject week. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) conducted several environmental trainings throughout the week for new substation and trench construction personnel.

#### Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are now complete and the line was officially released to operations in early-July. The contractor has reduced crews and continues with restoration work concerning a land sinkage problem resulting from project construction activities near the Ruby Hills entrance location along Vineyard Avenue. The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) continues to monitor periodically on a spot-check basis, and remains on-call.

#### Phase Two:

At the Cayetano Substation site, crews have completed grading operations. A water sweeper is being used to clean the roadway outside of the substation. The contractor continued foundation work for footing installation. Approximately 25 deep holes have been drilled and steel cages are being inserted and set in concrete. At the end of each workday the holes are being covered by plywood to avoid entrapment of wildlife. A fuel storage tank was brought to the site during the subject week. For secondary containment of the tank, a pit was excavated and lined with plastic. A perimeter of silt fencing has been installed and maintained around the substation site.

During the subject week, burrowing owls continued to be spotted in and around the PSD Yard foraging and perching. The Essex EI has conducted additional tailgate trainings to remind the crew members and Foremen to inspect the yard and work areas on a daily basis and to inspect the inside of all conduit prior to movement of or passing materials through conduit. The burrowing owls continue to occupy the nest located approximately 295-feet from the yard site. All seven young owls continue to forage in the area and have yet to fledge.

Crews completed trenching and conduit installation operations along May School Road and completed the road crossing of North Livermore Avenue during the subject week (see Figure 1). Concrete was poured over completed installations, and backfilled first with sub-soils up to base grade and then with the separated topsoils. Several locations along this segment have yet to be backfilled, which is expected to take place as the concrete cures. At the end of each workday, the contractor ramped the ends of the trench line and installed caps at the ends of each conduit.

Vault installation occurred at locations CC-4 and DC-23, CC-5 and DC-24, CC-6 and DC-25 including the removal and replacement of a damaged vault (see Figure 2). At the end of each workday a ramp was installed in the pits to avoid animal entrapment. By the end of the subject week, the vault boxes were lowered into the pits. Crews backfilled the void between the vault boxes and pit excavations to avoid the possible entrapment of wildlife. Crews have also begun the excavation for Vault CC-5 and DC-24.

On July 29, an unanticipated cultural discovery was made on the right-of-way adjacent to the historic May School cultural resource site. A concrete walkway was identified during clearing of the alignment area at Station 88+00. The CPUC EM and Lead EM were immediately notified of the find. After review of the consultation report submitted, a NTP was issued by the CPUC on August 4 to continue work in the area of the unanticipated discovery. An archaeological monitor was onsite for the duration of the construction in the area and is expected to monitor backfilling of the trench, which is planned for next week.

PG&E submitted documentation stating that the seasonal wetland east of Dagnino Road did not provide suitable habitat for sensitive species and therefore did not require a 100-foot buffer (see Figure 3). Further, the documentation demonstrated that the subject wetland is located within the mitigation site for the Dublin Ranch Development and as a result will soon be graded to establish the future wetland mitigation site. Documentation submitted included several biological survey reports, wetland delineations, excerpts from the Biological Opinion for this project and the Dublin Ranch Development, and maps. This information was submitted to Aspen/CPUC on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for review. PG&E was notified on August 19 by the Aspen Project Manager that the 100 foot buffer could be reduced; however, exclusion fencing shall be installed to prevent any construction activity from entering the mitigation site and subject seasonal wetland.

PG&E is currently in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game regarding a temporary access route to the Transition Station. The proposed route is located within the construction corridor and would involve overland travel only; no extensive grading would be required. However, the proposed overland route would cross three drainages. The drainages are currently dry and do not contribute to any waterways in the area.

Crews completed grading and soil compaction operations at the new Transition Station. Previously installed silt fence was inspected along the west and north sides of the station landing.

**Environmental Compliance:**

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

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

No new NTPs were issued during the subject week.

**Variance Requests:**

On August 11, Variance Request #9 was submitted to extend the PSD lay down yard, requesting an additional 82' by 270' area to the north of the yard, for parking and materials storage for the Phase Two portion of the project. The initial bio-survey report was incomplete and a revised version was submitted on August 15. A recommendation regarding the request was provided to CPUC on August 18.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:**

None.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
(Updated 08/20/03)

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
6	05/19/03	Approximate 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road for equipment and materials storage and contractor staging for the Phase Two portion of the project.	Completed	5/23/03
6-Modification	06/06/03	Allow clearing and grading at the 2.5 acre lay down area adjacent to the north side of May School Road.	Completed	7/8/03
7	07/01/03	Variance of Mitigation Measure 7.3 trench cover requirements to protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox deferring to the protocol outlined in the USFWS Biological Opinion.	Completed	7/22/03
8	7/25/03	Variance of Mitigation 7.4 for adjustments to burrowing owl protection mitigation measures per site-specific recommendations made by CDFG.	Completed	8/4/03
9	8/11/03	Variance to extend the PSD lay down yard, requesting an additional 82' by 270' area to the north of the yard, for parking and materials storage for the Phase Two portion of the project.	8/15 – Revised bio-report submitted. 8/18 – Recommendation to CPUC.	



Figure 1 – Trenching and conduit installation across North Livermore Avenue, Phase Two.



Figure 2 – Replacement of a damaged vault along May School Road, Phase Two.



Figure 3 – Buffer zone for potential aquatic invertebrate habitat along the North side of the access road between Dagnino Road and the Transition Station, Phase Two. PG&E trenchline is on the opposite side of the access road from the depression.