



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 27, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #81: October 16, 2005 – October 22, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Current construction of the PG&E Tri-Valley Project includes the Phase Three portion of the project, including construction of the overhead transmission line, underground alignment, North Dublin Substation, and Transition Station; all roadway and vault pad grading; and preparation of the 0.33-acre and 0.94-acre mitigation areas. Opus Environmental is providing the Environmental Inspectors for PG&E (PG&E EIs). Opus is providing environmental, as well as biological monitoring and oversight, including conducting environmental training of all new crew personnel. Road improvement and installation is being conducted by Granite Construction. The tower work is being conducted by PG&E. The underground construction is being engineered by Wilson Construction and is being completed by Ranger Construction. The substation work is being engineered by Black and Veatch who has subcontracted construction to Granite Construction.

### **Summary of Phase Three Activity:**

The CPUC EM monitored construction on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Minor conduit installation and tie-ins continue near the Transition Station pad during the site visit. Crews continue working at the Transition Station site drilling foundation holes and grading. Granite contractors continued Road 6 grading work. During the subject week, crews installed French drains at the landside stabilization area. Both Granite Construction and Ranger Construction continued restoration activities. Hydro seeding has occurred over the Ranger Construction work areas. Ranger Construction has put in some wattles along sloped areas at approximate 50-foot intervals. Granite Construction has installed wattles at smaller intervals; however, hydro-seeding has not occurred yet. The two contractors are using different seeding subcontractors. Granite Construction continues grading and earthmoving work at the substation site. At the wetland mitigation area, crews installed drains and riprap. All work within CDFG jurisdictional areas must be complete by October 31<sup>st</sup>, per the Streambed Alteration Agreement.

During the site visit, the CPUC EM encountered the following issues of concern:

- At the staging areas next to the Substation along Moller Ranch Road, erosion controls need to be installed around spoils piles (see Figure 1).
- The presence of cattle in the project area has led to additional difficulties in maintaining the silt fences and fiber rolls. These erosion prevention and sediment control devices needed repair in several areas (see Figure 2).
- A portable toilet was located within 20 feet of a drainage and will need to be moved to a safe distance due to the chemicals used in the unit.
- At the bank stabilization area, the bank needs to be restored and the access ramp to the site needs to be removed. The CPUC EM informed the PG&E EI that until the restoration is complete, Granite Construction must have a water diversion system in place prior to any forecast rain events. This restoration needs to be completely finished by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The CPUC EM also noted general site erosion concerns, especially at the culvert areas (see Figure 3).

The PG&E EI was very responsive to these concerns and when the CPUC EM toured the site on October 19<sup>th</sup>, some of the right-of-way conditions had improved. The PG&E EI drafted a Project Memorandum on October 18<sup>th</sup> addressing the issues raised by the CPUC EM, as well as additional compliance concerns and submitted it to the contractors and PG&E. Due to the seriousness with which PG&E took the CPUC EM's concerns and the PG&E EI's memorandum, it was determined that a CPUC Project Memorandum was not necessary at this time. PG&E worked with the construction contractor to address the punch list of issues identified by the PG&E EI. In addition, the PG&E Environmental Coordinator conducted the weekly meeting to discuss what needs to be done to address the environmental concerns.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

The CPUC EM observed that all Phase Three construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements with the exception of the SWPPP issues noted above that PG&E is working to correct.

The RWQCB representative for the project raised a concern regarding the installation of the French drains (sub-drains) adjacent to wetlands in the Moller Ranch Road area. There is a concern that the drain system designed to keep the access road passable may drain the wetlands adjacent to the road and that this impact was not reviewed by RWQCB. PG&E responded to the email and will work to have a detailed response for the resource agencies by October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Three Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) and two Project Memoranda (PMs) have been issued for the Phase Three portion of the project to date (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 10-27-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
PHASE THREE			
Project Memorandum	7/20/05	Crews have installed exclusion fencing as well as sediment fencing in areas with potential for spoils to slide in to sensitive areas. Numerous gaps were left in the fencing to allow moving cows. However, no exclusion signs have been installed in the gaps after repeated requests. In addition, the CTS exclusion zone was toured and no sensitive resource or exclusion signs to notify crews of the resource have been installed. Notifications were made to the PG&E EI. On July 14, an operator was not aware of the 500-foot CTS exclusion zone and a 400-foot by 20-foot area was scraped within the zone coming within 100 feet of the CTS burrow. The site Foreman when he realized what was occurring immediately stopped the operator. Opus notified Mary Hammer of the USFWS in an e-mail.	
NCR	7/26/05	A drainage off Manning Road was bridged by steel plates and the area extending upslope from the bridge had been graded up to and possibly within the drainage without an approved CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	CDFG notification required
NCR	7/26/05	Construction at Pole location 9, 10, 11, and 12 and use of associated access roads were started prior to the CPUC EM verifying that proper flagging and exclusion fencing had been installed as required by Project mitigation measures. Directly upslope of a CTS/CRLF breeding pond burrow clusters were not fenced off and the site was left unmonitored though construction was occurring within 200 feet of the pond. Crews were using new routes which were not previously surveyed or approved.	PG&E must properly flag and fence the work and access areas, and provide maps and survey results. Burrow clusters must be fenced for exclusion.
NCR	7/29/05	Crews graded the other side of the drainage referred to in an NCR issued 7/26/05. Note that a CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement has not been issued for the site.	CDFG notification required
Project Memorandum	8/21/05	Crews placed a dumpster outside of the project area and did not move it for three days.	Dumpster was removed 8/19/05

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

PG&E supplied the CPUC EM with e-mail and phone correspondence records with CDFG regarding work notifications and resource sightings and relocation.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Tri-Valley Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 10/27/05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
#1	September 12, 2002	Phase One: Construction on of six different sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the City of Pleasanton, City of Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County.
#2	October 10, 2002	Phase One: Construction of six additional sections of the underground portion of the Vineyard Segment, within the Cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, and unincorporated Alameda County
#3	December 12, 2002	Phase One: Construct the final sections of the Phase One portion Tri-Valley 2002 Capacity Increase Project, within the City of Pleasanton.
#4	May 5, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of the new 5-acre Cayetano Substation located at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and May School Road.
#5	July 14, 2003	Phase Two: Construction of 2.3 miles of underground transmission line installation extending from the Cayetano Substation to the North Livermore Transition Station to be constructed at the Contra Costa–Newark Transmission Line Corridor
UAD NTP		Phase Two: Allow construction within the exclusion boundary of the May School road cultural resource discovery area.
#6	June 29, 2005	Phase Three: Construction of the overhead transmission line, the transition station, all roadway and vault pad grading, and preparation of 0.33-acre mitigation area.
#7	August 4, 2005	Phase Three: Underground construction and preparation of the 0.94-acre mitigation area.
#8	August 18, 2005	Phase Three: North Dublin Substation.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Variance Request #17 was submitted to allow for the installation of guard structures at Collier Canyon Road and the grading of a work space near Dublin Substation. Table 3 presents the Phase Three Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 10/26/05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
PHASE THREE				
11	7/7/05	Variance to allow travel through home-stead archaeological site C-Livermore-1H.	Completed	7/8/05
12	7/15/05	Variance to allow the use of staging areas as outlined in road plan drawings along the Phase 3 alignment.	Completed	7/26/05
13	7/29/05	Variance to use three staging areas. Two are located along the Moller Ranch Road. The last is located adjacent to the Cayetano Substation.	Incorporated into NTP #7	
14	8/12/05	Variance to use three access roads, and a laydown area.	Completed	8/19/05
15	8/19/05	Variance to use two laydown areas and one access road near road 6.	Completed	8/26/05
16	9/15/05	Variance for use of a temporary overland access connector route to access two vault installation sites	Completed	9/19/05
17	10/26/05	Variance for installation of guard structures at Collier Canyon Road and grading a work space for a boom truck near the Dublin Substation.	Under Review	Pending

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Staging areas next to the Substation along Moller Ranch Road. Erosion controls need to be installed around spoils piles.



**Figure 2** – Sediment fencing in need of repair next to the substation.



**Figure 3** – Culvert undergoing installation along Moller Ranch Road.