



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** July 20, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #13: July 10, 2005 – July 16, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location to monitor construction activities. The weather was clear and hot. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI also served as the project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, ongoing bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation of sediment controls.

### **OVERHEAD:**

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

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work will be done by PG&E. The PG&E crews work Mondays through Thursdays.

During the subject week no pole foundation work occurred. The tower crew worked at Pole Sites 15 to 20, where the towers which were delivered and partially assembled in the previous week were installed and bolted to the foundations. Equipment stayed within previously disturbed areas or on existing access roads.

On July 14, the CPUC EM met with the PG&E EI. North of the Atlantic Substation, Poles 21 through 24 were reviewed (see Figure 1). These sites occur near sensitive vernal pool areas. The work areas were marked with yellow tape and the dirt access road defined by straw bales near any vernal pools (see Figure 2). The PG&E EI said that he was with the crews during pole delivery, assembly, and installation at each pole location.

On June 23, the CPUC EM issued a Non-Compliance Report (NCR) which documented the removal of 22 large trees without notifying the PG&E EI/biologist, thus the required pre-removal nesting surveys were not conducted. In addition, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15, as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3. In the NCR, the CPUC EM provided corrective measures which required that biological surveys shall be conducted immediately at all of the tree removal locations as well as the overland access areas. The PG&E EI contacted CDFG to notify them of the tree removals. The PG&E EI has conducted the post removal surveys as outlined in the NCR, and the report was submitted on July 17 to the CPUC. The report detailed the tree removal and follow up investigation. A raptor survey had been completed in March 2005 and no raptor nests were found in or near trees planned for removal. The NCR response report stated that no evidence of take of migratory birds or their nests was detected.

#### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at Poles 15 to 24 (where tower work is currently being conducted) for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas. The PG&E EI also evaluated the

Tower 9 construction area (the transition tower located at Midas Road). Several potential CTS burrows were observed underneath the canopy of some adjacent oak trees. An exclusion fence was established to protect both the potential burrows and the oak trees.

The CPUC EM observed that the overhead construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

**UNDERGROUND:**

**Summary of Activity:**

The underground work including trenching and conduit installation has been contracted to Wilson Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted. Construction will most likely start with the boring operation at Sunset Avenue, which is scheduled to start August 1. Underground trenching is scheduled to start August 15.

**Environmental Compliance Activities:**

None.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 1 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date.

**TABLE 1  
NOTICES TO PROCEED  
(Updated 7-20-05)**

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.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

On June 23rd an NCR was issued for not complying with Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6 in regard to tree removal activities. The NCR detailed notification and reporting actions, which were submitted to the CPUC EM on July 17.

**TABLE 2  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS  
(Updated 7-20-05)**

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.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 7-20-05)

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

**UPCOMING ITEMS:** Tree removal and foundation work are scheduled at Pole 14 next week.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Pole installations south of the Atlantic Substation, July 14, 2005.



**Figure 2** – Pole 22, July 5, 2005. Please note the hay bales and sediment fence located beyond the pole location which protects a sensitive vernal pool area, July 14, 2005.