



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 20, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #26: October 9, 2005 – October 15, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM), Anne Sweet, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on October 14. The weather was mainly clear and warm during the subject week; however, on Friday, October 14, light rain occurred in the evening. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. 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 has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is planned to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the remaining poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations except Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion control remains in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

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

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas, except for near the Pole #9 area. The burrows have been marked and excluded.

The CPUC EM observed that the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were 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.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

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

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted as well. Crews continued trenching, conduit installation, concrete pours, and backfilling during the subject week north of Farron Street from approximate Stations 22+80 to 35+35 (see Figure 1).

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work will encounter 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. A cultural monitor was

on-site for the excavation of trench line north of the Vault #2 area from approximate Stations 24+00 to 31+20. Per the PG&E EI, no unanticipated culturally important discoveries occurred.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

The Zayas crew completed backfill and restoration work within Drainage #30 at approximate Station 53+00 to 55+50 on October 14 meeting the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement requirement that all work within the crossings be completed by October 15. The drainage was restored per protocols outlined in the Streambed Alteration Agreement including restoring the slope contours and the replacement of the bank which was stock piled during construction. The area was reseeded with the wetland seed mix outlined in the project's restoration plan. Jute matting was placed over the seed. The dam and pump components were dismantled (see Figure 2).

According to PG&E, construction specifications for the project, topsoil segregation and replacement is required. Top soils are being separated and stored adjacent to the trench line. Sub soils from the trench line and vault excavation are being stored at the staging area next to the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. Per the PG&E EI, on October 12 an operator was observed using the stored topsoil for trenching and backfill operations. The topsoil pile was clearly marked. Approximately two buckets were used. The PG&E EI immediately stopped the operator and gave him an environmental "re-training" to reiterate the project and permit requirements. The issue was noted as a minor problem because no sensitive resources were jeopardized and there remains an abundance of available topsoil.

Moving ahead of the trench line, Zayas crews continued to remove weeds in compliance with PG&E's weed mitigation plan. Weed debris is being collected and disposed of off site.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

October 12, an operator was observed using the stored topsoil for trenching and backfill operations. The PG&E EI immediately stopped the operator and gave him an environmental "re-training." The issue was noted as a minor problem because no sensitive resources were jeopardized.

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were inspected and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas including Seasonal Drainages #5, #6, #30, and Ephemeral Drainages #007 and #12.

Straw wattles were installed along the right-of-way and at the Kinder-Morgan yard around spoil materials.

The CPUC EM observed that the underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 10-20-05)

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.

**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 10-20-05)**

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.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date. On October 12, the CPUC EM responded via e-mail that the biological survey and reporting requirements outlined in Variance #5 had been adequately fulfilled in order to remove the berm area located adjacent to the right-of-way where horizontal boring operations are to take place.

**TABLE 3  
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS  
(Updated 10-20-05)**

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
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:**

The horizontal bore crew is scheduled to mobilize to the site on October 24. Crews had planned to work from 7am to 7pm; however, the CPUC EM reminded PG&E that per mitigation measure requirements, boring may only occur from dawn to one half hour before dusk to assure site visibility in order to identify potential frac-outs. In addition to the regular environmental training, the PG&E EI has planned a tailgate prior to boring operations to discuss the bore plans, the Frac-out Contingency Plan and all applicable mitigation measure requirements.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Thermal concrete pour over the installed conduit north of Farron Street, October 14, 2005.



**Figure 2-** Restored area over the conduit installation within Drainage #30, October 14, 2005.