



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** March 31, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #49: March 19, 2006 – March 25, 2006  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

CPUC Environmental Monitors (EM), Heather Stiles, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site Tuesday and Wednesday. Due to decreased levels of construction and lessened risks to sensitive resources, mitigation monitoring has been reduced to an as-needed basis. While on-site, the PG&E EI is conducting environmental trainings for all new crewmembers 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 needs to be completed are Transition Poles #9 and #10. All of the towers have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These towers will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. No work was performed by the overhead crews during the subject week. However, the PG&E EI coordinated with the foreman of the overhead construction crew regarding upcoming work activities and resulting monitoring and avoidance requirements pertaining to sensitive resources.

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

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are routinely inspected and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

The PG&E EI conducted a survey for nesting birds between Midas Avenue and the Del Mar Substation. Kevin Kilpatrick identified a pair of red-shouldered hawks occupying a stick nest, approximately 100 feet high in the top of a leafless cottonwood tree near the end of Yankee Hill Road. This nest is located approximately 200-300 feet north of the right-of-way, near the outer edge of the 250-foot construction buffer. This stick nest and a pair of red-shouldered hawks were observed last year at this location; however, the birds did not remain at the nest site beyond April. No additional stick nests or indications of nesting birds were observed between Midas Avenue and the Del Mar Substation.

In addition, the PG&E EI conducted a survey for nesting birds from the Atlantic Substation to Vault 1 and found a nest of great horned owls, with two juveniles occupying a stick nest in a leafless cottonwood tree approximately 100 feet from Tower 17 (near Antelope Creek and the archery range). Numerous other potential stick nests were observed in oak trees along the project right-of-way, but no indication of other nesting raptors was observed.

These nests will continue to be monitored. Depending on the pair's status, the timing of the overhead work that needs to be conducted along this section of the project, and the need to work within the 250-foot construction buffer, PG&E will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game as necessary.

## **UNDERGROUND:**

### **Summary of Activity:**

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted the ground construction work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work was subcontracted to Cherrington. Interstate Safety has been subcontracted by Wilson to complete conduit installation.

During the subject week, Wilson and their subcontractors completed pulling cable between Vaults 4 and 3, and between Vaults 1 and 2 (see Figure 1).

Previously, spoils piles off Midas Road adjacent to Drainage #30 had remained large. Subsequent to the issuance of a Failure to Comply notice by the City of Rocklin, PG&E and Zayas have coordinated effectively to have all spoils piles removed as they are generated. However, no new spoil piles were generated during the subject week, nor are they expected during the remainder of the project.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18<sup>th</sup>, were completed in early December. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits and demobilized on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

Wilson Construction has hired a third party company to provide on-call erosion control maintenance and installation of additional BMPs throughout the remainder of the construction process.

Wilson Construction continued to dewater from Vaults 1, 2, 3, and 4. As noted in previous reports, crews have left dewatering devices in place at each of the vaults to help ensure that the correct dewatering procedures are followed. At each site, hoses extend from the dewatering pumps at the vaults to a suitable area of flat, stable ground, devoid of sensitive resources. A sediment bag is attached to the outlet of the hoses.

At Vaults 1 and 4, erosion control devices are in place and properly functioning; however, stormwater has carried suspended sediment into a nearby adjacent wetlands. Similarly, at the construction yard on Pacific Avenue, stormwater is carrying sediment off the project area and into the City of Rocklin's storm gutters. Wilson responded by installing some additional measures such as straw wattles and rock/sand bag containment barriers. Silt fence, straw wattles, and rock bags can trap a large amount of loose material; however, it is difficult to prevent suspended sediments in stormwater from reaching nearby waterbodies with these devices. If the erosion persists, other measures such as containment settling basins or pumping to Baker tanks or acceptable upland sites may be necessary. Continued erosion at these locations is out of compliance with the RWQCB General Stormwater Permit and could also result in non-compliance reports from the CPUC, and/or fines and non-compliance from the RWQCB, and the City of Rocklin.

A section of silt fence at Drainage #30 was undercut by water flow during a storm event during the previous week. This section was previously breached in December, which caused erosion on the bank of the drainage. After the initial problem, Wilson's crews had installed sandbags on the bank to prevent further erosion. This remedy had been working until Tuesday of the previous week, when the water undercut the fence in nearly the same location (slope of the terrain directs water to this location). The water flow cut parallel to the original erosion and caused additional damage to the bank. Further damage was observed during the tour on March 21 (see Figure 2). Wilson crews installed additional erosion control devices to repair the undercut section and to attempt to direct water flow away from this location. Repairs included re-burying the undercut section of fence, placing sandbags along the area that had been undercut, and installing a new section of silt fence to direct water flow away from this location. Again, the CPUC EM reminded the PG&E EI of the sensitive nature of Drainage # 30 and the importance of finding a solution that would prevent degradation to the resource. The CDFG was notified via email on Thursday, March 23.

Far Western has been conducting cultural monitoring on the project. All of the excavation work has been completed. As such, a cultural monitor no longer needs to be present. PG&E understands that a cultural monitor will be required if any additional ground disturbance occurs in these culturally sensitive areas. The workers have been trained to notify the PG&E EI and follow proper procedure if any potentially cultural material is discovered during work anywhere on the project.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR and two Project Memoranda have been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 03-31-06)

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.
Project Memo	1-6-06	PG&E contractors mechanically pumped the water from the casing of the underground conduit into Wetland #1 through a filter bag without adequate testing. Wetland #1 is under the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.	Dewatering from the pipe is being conducted into Baker tanks. Test results and subsequent action are pending. The ACOE has been notified.
Project Memo	1-6-06	Large spoil piles are being stored in close proximity to Seasonal Drainage #30 without adequate erosion control measures, which is a violation of APM 7-2. The erosion control along the drainage was in disrepair, which led to silt from the spoil piles being emptied into the CDFG drainage. Siltation entering the drainage is a violation of Condition #2 of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	Crews reinforced the erosion control along Seasonal Drainage #30. The CDFG has been notified. Spoil piles have been removed and are not expected to regenerate.

**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 03-31-06)

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.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
(Updated 03-31-06)

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:** None

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:** None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Cable stringing near Vault #4, March 24, 2006.



**Figure 2** – Bank of Drainage #30, March 21, 2006.