



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: May 4, 2006
Subject: Weekly Report #54: April 23, 2006 – April 29, 2006
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Heather Stiles

CPUC Environmental Monitor EM Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on Tuesday, April 25th. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Kevin Kilpatrick, was on-site and met with the CPUC EM. 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. During the subject week, the overhead crew strung a fiber optic cable between Transition Tower #10 and the Atlantic Substation (see Figure 1). The wire was put into place by using a helicopter to string a length of rope along pulleys situated on the top of the towers. Subsequently, the rope was used to pull and tighten the wire into place with trucks positioned at termination points. Crew members were placed on the towers using the helicopter.

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.

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.

Wilson and their subcontractors continued to work on various cable-related activities at the vaults and transition structures. The topsoil that was spread last week between Sunset and Farron Street is not yet ready for seeding. The grading at this location is very rough and needs to be made more level in some locations, while other areas of compact clay need to be decompacted prior to seeding. This issue was discussed with Bert Austin of Zayas Construction. A list of restoration activities, provided by correspondence between Bert Austin and Kevin Kilpatrick, is provided in the following section of this weekly report.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18th, 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 14th. 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

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 and functional around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

Restoration should be conducted according to the plans described in the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project *Upland and Wetland Mitigation, Restoration, and Revegetation Plan*. After seeding is conducted, straw mulch (or hydro-mulch) will be placed to approximately 70 percent coverage (100 percent if hydro-mulch is used) over all disturbed ground (except access road and previously barren areas). The straw mulch is intended to function as the long-term erosion control until seeding is successful. Restoration will be considered successful once the restored vegetation covers approximately 70 percent or more of the area disturbed by construction.

Outstanding work includes completing restoration of the following project areas:

Contractor yard:

1. Remove straw bales, straw wattles, silt fence and fabric on access roads.
2. Restore grade, and decompact soils of disturbed ground as necessary outside of the graveled travel areas.
3. Remove all trash, construction materials, equipment, and debris.
4. Seed disturbed ground along the edges of the yard except graveled access roads.
5. Mulch all seeded areas with a weed free straw at an approximate rate of 2 tons per acre to achieve approximately a 70 percent cover, and crimp straw by use of a mechanical crimper or equivalent equipment.

Contractor yard to Sunset Avenue:

1. Remove gravel drain rock near tower 10.
2. Remove silt fence and straw wattles (leave straw bales and a short piece of filter fabric along the straw bales adjacent to wetland #1).
3. Remove construction materials and debris.
4. Restore original grade of wetland #2.
5. Spread topsoil – keeping wetland and upland topsoil to respective locations.
6. Seed all disturbed ground, except graveled access roads.
7. Mulch all seeded areas with a weed free straw at an approximate rate of 2 tons per acre to achieve approximately a 70 percent cover, and crimp straw by use of a mechanical crimper or equivalent equipment.

Sunset Avenue to Farron Street:

1. Remove silt fence and straw wattles (leave straw bales).
2. Decompact soils (with a mechanical soil disc harrow or a bulldozer type ripper as necessary).
3. Spread topsoil evenly.
4. Seed all disturbed ground.
5. Mulch all seeded areas with a weed free straw at an approximate rate of 2 tons per acre to achieve approximately a 70 percent cover, and crimp straw by use of a mechanical crimper or equivalent equipment.

Farron Street to Midas Avenue:

1. Remove silt fence and straw wattles and sand bags at seasonal drainage crossing #30 (leave straw bales).
2. Remove other silt fence, straw wattles, and any other construction materials and debris between Farron and Midas.
3. Restore the eroded bank of seasonal drainage #30 by filling in the eroded gaps with native soil/ topsoil.
4. Seed all disturbed ground on the restored bank and cover with jute netting.

Midas Avenue / Transition Tower 9:

1. Remove silt fence and straw wattles.
2. Remove rock, timber mats and other construction materials.
3. Decompact soils (with a mechanical soil disc harrow or a bulldozer type ripper as necessary).
4. Spread topsoil.
5. Seed all disturbed ground.
6. Mulch all seeded areas with a weed free straw at an approximate rate of 2 tons per acre to achieve approximately a 70 percent cover, and crimp straw by use of a mechanical crimper or equivalent equipment.

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 5-4-06)

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 5-4-06)**

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 5-4-06)**

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 – Wire-pulling at Transition Tower #10, April 25, 2006.