



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 1, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #6: May 22, 2005 – May 28, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site May 26th at the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location to monitor construction activities. The weather was clear and warm. 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.

On May 17, Pole 2/15 just south of Highway 65 was toured. The crew had created a bermed ditch on the 100-ft by 100-ft pole area and had discharged groundwater which had intruded into the foundation hole. On May 18th the Essex Project Manager submitted a California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Central Valley Region Resolution No. R5-2003-008 Approving Waiver of Reports of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for specific types of discharge within the Central Valley Region. In addition, she supplied a correspondence record of a conversation with Wendy Wyles at the Central Valley RWQCB who confirmed that if PG&E “contains groundwater from the pole drilling sites in a berm or other containment structure and prevents any discharge to surface water, the waiver is applicable to this project.” On May 26th the PG&E EI and the CPUC EM toured the Pole 2/15 area. There exists a vernal pool area east of the location. The installed protective sediment fencing and hay bales as outlined in the USFWS Letter of No Effect were still intact. The foundation hole had been poured. The area around the foundation was very torn up and the ditch where groundwater had been outlet was almost free of standing water, but was filled with mud. The PG&E EI said that he would have the crew load up the mud and place it in a disposal bin and have the crew level the area by the end of the work day (see Figure 1).

Prior to construction at all pole locations a CTS survey report must be submitted to the CPUC. A CTS survey report was submitted on May 24th for Pole 2/17 and 2/18 locations. No burrows or CTS aestivation habitat was identified. During the subject week the Pole 2/17 foundation was drilled and the concrete poured (see Figure 2). The augur equipment had broken during work on the Pole 2/18 foundation. Crews moved the equipment to a disturbed access road area to work on it and covered the hole with plywood. The crew will return on May 31st to finish the hole, set the cage, and pour concrete. The EI reported that the site had been secured for public safety at the end of the workday.

All surplus soils are being placed in visquene lined soil container bins. The bins will be hauled off site to an approved disposal facility when full.

Previously, there had been some dirt tracked onto a paved road from a dirt access road being used for the project. During the subject week, crews installed gravel along the dirt access road at the transition to the paved roadway which has helped greatly.

The PG&E EI and the CPUC EM toured the project to look at access issues pertaining to future work. To access the area located behind the City of Rocklin yard, which leads to Pole 12, there is an area that had at one time been used for access but is long overgrown. There is paved area at the start of the road and the area is level. Photographs of the area were sent to the Lead EM for review and it was determined that the road was existing and is acceptable for use by the project. However the access route lies adjacent to a flowing drainage area and the resource will require protection in the event of rain (see Figure 3). At this location there also exists a protected Valley elderberry shrub, which has already been flagged in the field.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

On May 24th a CTS survey report was submitted for construction at the Pole 2/17 and 2/18 sites. No burrows or CTS aestivation habitat was identified.

The CPUC EM observed that all other 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, unless otherwise noted.

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 tentatively scheduled to start in July.

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 6-1-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and over head 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:

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) or Project Memorandums (PMs) have been issued for the project to date.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

On May 19th, PG&E submitted Variance Request #2 to allow overland travel from an existing access road to Pole 3/19. The CPUC EM field validated the request area with the PG&E EI. The area was surveyed and neither biological nor cultural resources were identified. The request was approved by CPUC on May 25th.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 6-1-05)

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

UPCOMING ITEMS:

None.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Pole 2/15 construction disturbance and dewatering ditch area, May 26, 2005.



Figure 2 – Post foundation construction at Pole 2/17, May 26, 2005.



Figure 3 – Proposed future work access route, May 26, 2005.