



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** August 1, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #14: July 17, 2005 – July 23, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site July 21<sup>st</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 vacation, but a replacement EI, Shannon Ceresola, 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, the crew worked at Pole 14 in Roseville. An exclusion zone was constructed to prevent ground disturbance under the nearby oak trees and vernal pool. Sediment control barriers were not necessary at this site, because there is a hydrological barrier between the vernal pool and the work area. At the Pole 14 location four trees were removed. All tree removal permits are in place for the location and prior to the removal, surveys for nesting raptors and migratory birds were conducted. No stick nests or tree cavities were found. The biologist environmentally trained the tree removal crew prior to work and monitored the tree removal activities. Following the tree removals, crews augured the foundation hole, placed the foundation cage, and poured concrete which was left to cure. At the end of the week the pole was installed and bolted to the foundation.

During the subject week, crews completed pole assembly and erection of Poles 11, 12 (see Figure 1), 13 and 15. Crews also tightened bolts on Poles 19 through 24. All materials and equipment stayed within previously disturbed areas or on existing access roads.

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

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at Poles 11 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 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Underground trenching is also scheduled to start on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Crews will be mobilizing to the site on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>th</sup>.

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

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 8-1-05)

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 8-1-05)

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.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 8-1-05)

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
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:**

Underground construction crews will be mobilizing to the site on August 1<sup>st</sup> to prepare for a construction start of August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Pole components ready for installation at Pole Site 12, July 21, 2005.