



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 5, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #15: July 24, 2005 – July 30, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen EM Anne Sweet was on site July 27th, 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.

Crews completed tower erection at three sites during the subject week at pole sites 10, 14, and 15. Work was closely monitored at Pole 14 due to the near by vernal pool areas. Work was confined to an area of 40-feet by 40-feet at this site.

During the subject week, foundation work was started at pole sites 5 and 6 located along the railroad right-of-way. Crews had not provided railroad representatives with advance notification, thus no heavy equipment was allowed within 25 feet of the tracks. Foundation holes were dug to a depth of five feet by hand at the two sites (see Figure 1). Pole 6 is located near cultural resource site YH-2. The resource must be crossed in order to access the Pole 6 site. Previously, after evaluation, Variance #4 was approved on July 7, which allows a 15-foot travel corridor across the site. The corridor area was roped off in the field. All ground disturbing activities at Pole 6 occur outside of the resource boundary and buffer. Far Western Anthropological Resource Group was notified of the work occurring near the resource, but were not required to directly monitor the site. The PG&E EI conducted a tailboard with the crews to reiterate unanticipated cultural discoveries procedures prior to work at Pole 6.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The PG&E EI roped off the allowable travel corridor across cultural resource site YH-2. She also conducted a tailboard with the crews to reiterate unanticipated cultural discoveries procedures prior to work at Pole 6.

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at Poles 5, 6, 10, 14 and 15 (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 are observed underneath the canopy of some adjacent oak trees. An exclusion fence has been 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 late-August 15th. Underground trenching is also scheduled to start in late-August.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

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

**TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**

(Updated 8-5-05)

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 8-5-05)

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 Variance Requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
 (Updated 8-5-05)

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 has been postponed to late-August.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Crews pot-holing at pole site #5 adjacent to the railroad, July 27, 2005.