



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 2, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #19: August 21, 2005 – August 27, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen did not conduct a site tour of the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location during the subject week. Per the PG&E EI, work was minimal and crews did not work near any sensitive biological resource areas. The weather was clear and hot. 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 and maintenance 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.

Previously, crews encountered very hard rock during augering at Poles 1 and 6 and were unable to drill to depth. PG&E has re-engineered the pole work and alternative construction was implemented. During the subject week, the crew completed excavation work at Pole 1 and poured foundations at Poles 1 and 6. The concrete delivery truck drivers washed out their buckets into the excavated hole or bermed areas (under the oversight of the PG&E EI), which was removed after it set. All soil and concrete debris was placed in soil bins stored at or near the pole sites. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are the two Transition Poles # 9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is planned to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities.

### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas except at the Pole 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 was informed 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. Underground construction is scheduled to start early September. Crews plan to mobilize to the site September 1<sup>st</sup>. The PG&E EI/biologist reconducted nesting bird surveys for the underground portion of the project on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. No nests or nesting behavior was observed near the project right-of-way.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

The PG&E EI/biologist reconducted nesting bird surveys for the underground portion of the project on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. No nests or nesting behavior was observed near the project right-of-way.

The CPUC EM was notified that the underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

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

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 9-2-05)

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 9-2-05)

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 9-2-05)

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 is now scheduled to start early September; crews plan to mobilize to the site September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.