



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 12, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #20: August 28, 2005 – September 3, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Anne Sweet toured the site September 1 at the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location. The weather was clear and hot. The PG&E Environmental Inspectors (EIs), Kevin Kilpatrick and Shannon Ceresola, were on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. Kevin is leaving the project and will be replaced by Shannon starting September 2. Both PG&E EIs also serve as project biologists 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 is being done by PG&E. The PG&E crews work Mondays through Thursdays.

The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is planned to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the remaining poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations except Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized (likely several months from now.) Crews worked on compressing the installed pole segments using a hydraulic jack. Crews also finished removing remaining soil and cleaning up all of the work areas at the completed pole locations. Soil bins were removed from the project.

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 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. Crews began mobilizing to the site September 1.

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

During the site tour in September 1, the CPUC EM and PG&E EIs reviewed previously approved staging areas along the right of way. Additional space needs were identified at three locations. On the south side of the Sunset Avenue, bore additional space is needed; however, the area is constrained on both sides by existing features. On one side lies a berm area containing burrows which serve as potential California Tiger Salamander (CTS) aestivation habitat. Just beyond the berm lies a protected wetland area (see Figure 1). PG&E EIs have roped the area off for exclusion and will install erosion control prior to boring operations. Opposite the berm lies an oak tree (see Figure 2). PG&E submitted Variance Request #5 on September 2, requesting to either level the berm or remove the oak tree in order to gain the space needed for boring operations as well as placement of Transition Pole #10. Variance Request #5 also included requests to use two additional areas. One area is an existing disturbed area which extends outside of the right-of-way needed for staging. The other area lies through a delineated wetland, where PG&E is requesting to string and pull the 30-inch conduit for boring operation under Sunset Avenue. The CPUC EM informed the PG&E EIs that agency approvals would be required for the requested areas which affect jurisdictional resources such as USFWS, CDFG, and USACE.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

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

The PG&E EI evaluated staging areas for the underground construction needs.

The CPUC EM observed 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 9-12-05)

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 9-12-05)

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:

PG&E submitted Variance Request #5 on September 2, requesting to either level an existing berm or remove an oak tree in order to gain the space needed for the Sunset Avenue boring operations, as well as placement of the Transition Pole #10. Variance Request #5 also included requests to use two additional areas. One area is an existing disturbed area which extends outside of the right-of-way needed for staging. The other area lies through a delineated wetland, where PG&E is requesting to string and pull the 30-inch conduit for boring operations under Sunset Avenue. The request was approved by the CPUC on September 8. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
(Updated 9-12-05)

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
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:

Underground construction crews began to mobilize to the site September 1st. Crews plan to begin grading September 6.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

None.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Wetland located adjacent to the Sunset Avenue bore, September 1, 2005. The area has been fenced, but sediment control protection is yet to be installed.



Figure 2 – Oak tree located adjacent to the Sunset Avenue bore, September 1, 2005.