



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** September 21, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #22: September 11, 2005 – September 17, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

Aspen Environmental Monitors (EMs) Anne Sweet and Heather Stiles toured the site September 15 at the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location. The weather was clear and warm. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going 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.) The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion control remains in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

### **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 current overhead construction activities to be complete and 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. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted as well. Crews began vault installation and trenching during the subject week. North of Farron

Street, crews excavated an approximate 28-foot by 10-foot by 15-foot area and installed Vault #2 (see Figure 1). Extending from the vault location, crews extended the trench line south and began installing the conduit for the underground line.

On Thursday, September 15, the Zayas crews had questioned whether they would be required to separate and store topsoil. The PG&E EI pointed out that according to PG&E construction specifications for the project, topsoil segregation and replacement is required. Topsoils were separated and stored adjacent to the trench line. Subsoils from the trench line and vault excavation were stored at the staging area next to the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. Samples were taken from the spoils pile for contaminant testing. Upon receipt of results, the spoils will be taken to the appropriate disposal facility.

Moving ahead of the trench line Zayas crews removed weeds in compliance with PG&E's weed mitigation plan. Crews installed additional sediment controls along Wetland #5. In addition, crews installed erosion controls around Seasonal Drainage #12.

The approved Variance Request #5, requested to either level a berm or remove an oak tree in order to gain the space needed for boring operations as well as placement of Transition Pole #10. Next week a California Tiger Salamander specialist will investigate the berm area to see if viable habitat is present.

Far Western has been conducting the cultural monitoring which included oversight of the Vault #2 excavation. The underground work will encounter several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan.

During the site tour, the project schedule was discussed with Zayas and the PG&E EI. The Zayas construction Foreman was asking about requirements for the upcoming construction through Seasonal Drainage #12. The CPUC EM and PG&E EI told the Foreman to review the project permits, most notably the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement conditions which require that trenching through the site crossing be completed by October 15.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Top soil separation issues were handled. All top soil will be segregated and stored adjacent to the trenchline.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were installed around sensitive resource areas.

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 9-22-05)

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 9-22-05)**

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

**TABLE 3  
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS  
(Updated 9-22-05)**

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:**

The horizontal bore is scheduled to begin in October.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Vault installation with extending trench line north of Farron Street, September 15, 2005.