



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 5, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #37: December 25, 2005 – December 31, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on Thursday, December 29. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was onsite to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The PG&E EI is conducting environmental trainings for all new crewmembers. 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 only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Although the crew has completed the first wire pull from the Atlantic Substation to Tower 18, the next wire pull cannot ensue until Transition Pole #10 is installed at the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. The concrete foundation for Transition Pole #10 is scheduled for completion during the second week in January.

In addition to completing the first wire pull, the overhead crew disposed of miscellaneous hardware and wooden poles that were a part of the old line that has been replaced with the new steel towers. The crew received two wooden poles that will serve as guard structures near Highway 65. The poles will be installed next week.

All of the towers have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These towers will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work in this area 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 controls remain in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

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

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted the ground construction work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work has been subcontracted to Cherrington.

Crews were significantly impacted by precipitation and saturated soils throughout the right-of way and thus did not make significant progress on project tasks.

The crew excavated Vault 3 at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Rocklin Road. The area had been previously blasted, but large granite boulders remained. The crew used a rock hammer to demolish the granite. However, the crew was forced to backfill the newly excavated vault due to large amounts of received and forecasted precipitation, as well as erosion concerns and the possibility of undermining the curb and gutter located at the intersection of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations, which commenced on November 18, were completed in early-December. The HDD contractor completed clean up at the entrance and exit sites of the bore pits and demobilized on December 14. The area will be reclaimed and reseeded at the end of the project upon completion of the wire pull and energization of the line.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters 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. Per the PG&E EI, during the subject week, no excavation work occurred in previously identified culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

All new equipment is inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site. A road sweeper was operated along Railroad Avenue between Pine Street and Oak, the turnaround at the Amtrak parking lot, Farron Street, and Pacific Avenue in order to keep the street clear of any mud deposited by construction vehicles and machinery.

The underground crew installed steel plates from Farron Street going south towards the receiving pit of the bore site. Steel plates were installed due to the saturated ground and are being used as an access road. Crews dewatered the area adjacent to the exit bore site using a filter bag into the adjacent right-of-way.

The crew stockpiled, covered, and contained with either silt fence or straw wattles all spoil piles along the right-of-way.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with steel plates or chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

The CPUC EM observed that all other underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. The existing erosion control measures that have been installed at Seasonal Drainage #37, Seasonal Drainage #5, Seasonal Drainage #6, Ephemeral Drainage #07, Seasonal Drainage #12, Seasonal Drainage #30 from Station 55+60 to the end of the drainage and parallel to Seasonal Drainage #36 have been maintained and are in satisfactory condition. The restoration efforts in Seasonal Drainage #30 are progressing nicely. The flowing water appears clear and the vegetation is becoming established on the banks and the bed of the drainage (Figure 1).

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

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 1-05-06)

| 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 1-05-06)

| 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 1-05-06)

| 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:**

None of note.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Restoration results in Seasonal Drainage #30,  
December 29, 2005.