



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

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

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 11, 2006  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #38: January 1, 2006 – January 7, 2006  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles and Anne Sweet Coronado

Aspen Environmental Monitors (EM), Heather Stiles and Anne Sweet Coronado, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on Thursday, January 5. Anne Sweet Coronado toured the site again on Friday, January 6. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on vacation and was temporarily replaced by Lincoln Allen 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.

A very large storm event occurred prior to and at the beginning of the subject week.

### **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.

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 overhead crews did not work during the subject week. 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. Additional silt fence was installed in order to reinforce existing silt fence next to the rutted access road on the west bank of Antelope Creek.

### **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 crews dewatered the following sites onto adjacent land using filter bags: Vaults 1 and 3, the HDPE pipe extending beneath Sunset Boulevard, and the entry and exit sites of the bore. During the site tour on January 5, the CPUC EMs found that the contractor was pumping water from the HDPE pipe and was dewatering into Wetland #2, which is under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps, without proper testing. This violation was noted in a Project Memorandum issued to PG&E by the CPUC EM on January 6. In response, a Baker tank was brought to the location for site dewatering.

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.

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 were noted as needing repair due to excessive and persistent wind and rain during the subject and previous weeks. The PG&E EI has repeatedly requested that crews continuously maintain erosion control measures throughout the project. The crews are beginning to respond to these requests.

Erosion control in the vicinity of Seasonal Drainage #30 was in serious disrepair at the time of the CPUC EM site visit and silt from the nearby spoil piles was entering the resource, a CDFG jurisdictional drainage (see Figure 1). Erosion had occurred underneath the sediment fence which was installed at the bank line. Erosion extended from that point and all the way down the bank of the drainage. A Project Memorandum was issued to PG&E to document the occurrence and the close proximity of the spoil piles to Seasonal Drainage #30, which at some points are placed 10 to 12 feet from the top of the bank. In addition, a dewatering hole has been dug less than 35 feet from the drainage and surface and ground waters from areas covering the entire underground segment are being deposited into the hole. It was noted on Friday, January 6, that crews had made an effort to remedy the situation. Sediment fence was installed around some of the spoils piles closest to the drainage and sediment build-up at the existing sediment fence located at the bank line was removed. In addition, sand bags were placed within and around eroded areas inside the bank of Drainage #30 to prevent further erosion and hinder further sediment flow into the drainage (see Figure 2). Note that no equipment entered the drainage area and no earth moving occurred which is seasonally prohibited by the Project Streambed Alteration Agreement. Further repair is required.

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.

The PG&E EI conducted five environmental trainings during the subject week.

During the previous week, 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.

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 water from the HDPE pipe was being dewatered into Wetland #2, which is under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps, without proper testing. This violation was noted in a Project Memorandum issued to PG&E by the CPUC EM on January 6.

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 were noted as needing repair due to excessive and persistent wind and rain during the subject and previous weeks. The PG&E EI has repeatedly requested that crews continuously maintain erosion control measures throughout the project. The crews are beginning to respond to these requests.

Erosion control in the vicinity of Seasonal Drainage #30 was in serious disrepair at the time of the CPUC EM site visit and silt from the nearby spoil piles was entering the resource, a CDFG jurisdictional drainage. A Project Memorandum was issued to PG&E to document the occurrence and the close proximity of the spoil piles to Seasonal Drainage #30. It was noted on Friday, January 6, that crews had made an adequate effort to remedy the situation, although further repair is required.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR and two Project Memorandum have been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
(Updated 01-11-06)

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.
Project Memo	1-6-06	PG&E contractors mechanically pumped the water from the casing of the underground conduit into Wetland #1 through a filter bag without adequate testing. Wetland #1 is under the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.	Dewatering from the pipe is being conducted into Baker tanks. Test results and subsequent action are pending. The ACOE has been notified.
Project Memo	1-6-06	Large spoil piles are being stored in close proximity to Seasonal Drainage #30 without adequate erosion control measures, which is a violation of APM 7-2. The erosion control along the drainage was in disrepair, which led to silt from the spoil piles being emptied into the CDFG drainage. Siltation entering the drainage is a violation of Condition #2 of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement.	Crews reinforced the erosion control along Seasonal Drainage #30. The CDFG has been notified. A decision to move the spoil piles is being considered by PG&E.

**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 01-11-06)

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 01-11-06)

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:**

The text from the two Project Memorandums issued to Lin Bowie of Essex/P&G&E was emailed to Paul Sanders of Regional Water Quality Control Board, Andrea Jones of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Jeff Finn of California Department of Fish and Game. In addition, Jeff Finn was contacted by telephone.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Erosion at Seasonal Drainage #30, January 5, 2006.



**Figure 2** – Crews placing sand bags at Seasonal Drainage #30, January 6, 2006.