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# PROJECT MEMORANDUM DELTA DPA CAPACITY INCREASE SUBSTATION PROJECT

**To:** Junaid Rahman, CPUC

**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** February 21, 2008

**Subject:** Weekly Report #17: February 10, 2008 – February 16, 2008

# **CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR (EM):** Jody Fessler

CPUC EM Jody Fessler was on site Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BRIDGE OVER SAND CREEK:**

# **Summary of Activity:**

No work has been done on the bridge over Sand Creek. It is complete except for guard rails, which still need to be installed. The CPUC EM noted at the time of the site visit that erosion controls were in place around the creek area and grass is growing in the area that was previously seeded.

#### **ACCESS ROAD:**

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

During the week, a water truck continuously watered the access road for dust control purposes.

#### **STAGING AREAS:**

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

The staging yard on the north side of Sand Creek was used to park some employee vehicles and store materials. Rolled wattles and silt fencing are installed around the staging yard. At the time of the site visit, the CPUC EM noted that the staging yard was neat and clean.

# **SUBSTATION SITE:**

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

On Sunday, crews worked on "ripping" the soil of the substation pad to dry it out and then re-compacted the soil. On Monday, work resumed hauling fill from the Kaiser site to the substation area in order to build up the substation pad. The fill was picked clean of debris and was then graded and compacted to meet engineering requirements. Work stopped early on Monday afternoon due to issues at the Kaiser site. On Tuesday, work resumed hauling fill from the Kaiser site to the substation area. Sixteen trucks hauled fill continuously. Wednesday through Friday, crews continued to haul fill from the Kaiser site to the substation area where the soil was deposited, debris was removed, the soil was graded and then compacted to meet specifications (see Figure 1). On Saturday, the hauling of fill was completed.

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Shortly before the CPUC EM arrived at the site on Thursday, a large sheepsfoot compactor sprung a leak on the fuel injector pump gasket in the engine compartment. Approximately one gallon of diesel fuel was spilled. The compactor had been stopped for a lunch break, and when the operator restarted the engine the gasket failed. The operator immediately shut off the engine. Crews laid down the absorbent cloths from the spill kit to soak up the spilled diesel. After absorbing as much diesel from the soil as possible, crews placed a plastic sheet and absorbent cloths under the compactor while it was being repaired. After the compactor was repaired, the saturated cloths, plastic, and diesel contaminated soil were removed from the area and disposed of in a designated container under the supervision of the PG&E Environmental Inspector.

At the time of the CPUC EM site visit, soil was being hauled from the Kaiser site to the substation site where it was deposited, debris was removed, the soil was graded and then compacted. While at the substation site, the CPUC EM observed a coyote a couple of hundred yards away in the field to the south of the substation site (see Figure 2). The coyote was hunting ground squirrels and did not seem affected by the construction noise.

# **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM confirmed that the appropriate spill kit materials had been refilled and were on site. Also, a new designated refueling area was built with straw bales and plastic sheeting (see Figure 3). The CPUC EM observed that work activities were in compliance with the approved Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. The wildlife exclusion fencing and erosion controls were in place at all of the work areas. Straw bales and wattles were in place under the bridge for additional erosion control. A water truck continued to water the access road and the substation site throughout the week for dust control purposes. Heavy equipment was parked overnight in a designated area within the substation boundaries. The CPUC EM reviewed PG&E EI daily reports and survey reports. Environmental training of crew personnel was on-going as new crew personnel came onto the site.

#### NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On August 30, 2007, NTP #1 was issued by the CPUC for the PG&E Delta DPA Project. On August 29, 2007, PG&E requested authorization from the CPUC to commence with the civil/structural construction of the PG&E Delta DPA Capacity Increase Substation Project. The Project includes a proposed electric substation site, a new loop segment of an existing 230 kV transmission line, a temporary asphalt road, and a temporary bridge over Sand Creek in eastern Contra Costa County, within the limits of the City of Antioch, California. PG&E requested that NTP #1 include all construction activities related to the access road, bridge, substation, and transmission tower, as well as an extra staging area and a variance to Mitigation Measure CR-1. No additional NTPs are anticipated for the project.

# **VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week. Table 1 presents the Variance Requests reviewed and approved by the CPUC for the PG&E Delta DPA Project to date.

# TABLE 1 VARIANCE REQUESTS

(Updated 2-21-08)

Variance #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Description
#1	7-26-07	8-30-07	Request to modify Mitigation Measure CR-1, which requires a 10-foot fenced protective buffer for the site boundary of CA-CCo-682H fronting on the improved access road for the Project. Approved under NTP #1.
#2	8-29-07	8-30-07	Request for a new laydown area south of the proposed access road as it veers southwest towards Sand Creek. Approved under NTP #1.
#3	10-17-07	10-17-07	Request to encroach 5 feet into the cultural buffer zone for the movement of equipment.
#4	10-30-07	10-30-07	Request to extend Sand Creek bridge work until November 3 and road work until November 9 (installation of wildlife exclusion fencing along road) as approved by USFWS. USFWS issuing amended BO that will allow work on access road throughout the winter.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

One Project Memorandum has been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date. On October 17, 2007, the CPUC EM issued a Project Memorandum for the encroachment of equipment into the cultural buffer zone near the northern bridge foundation on October  $15^{th}$ .

No Non-Compliance Reports (NCR) have been issued by the CPUC EM for the project to date.

# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1** – Crews working at substation grading and compacting fill, February 14, 2008.



**Figure 2** – Coyote in adjacent field to the south of the substation, February 14, 2008.



**Figure 3** – New designated refueling area at Substation site, February 14, 2008.