



235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002 Tel. 415-955-4775, Fax 415-955-4776, www.aspeneg.com

# PROJECT MEMORANDUM DELTA DPA CAPACITY INCREASE SUBSTATION PROJECT

To: Junaid Rahman, CPUC

From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager

**Date:** March 14, 2008

**Subject:** Weekly Report #20: March 2, 2008 – March 8, 2008

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

CPUC EM Jody Fessler was on site Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SUBSTATION SITE:**

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

On Monday, D/C Concrete crews arrived on site and started the layout for the foundation work at the substation site. Holes were excavated for the concrete foundation work and foundation forms were constructed. Six-inch wide boards were placed in the excavations to allow wildlife to escape. On Tuesday, drilling for the foundation piers began over the west half of the substation pad. Pier holes were drilled 8 feet deep and covered with plywood to prevent animals from falling into the holes. The excavated pits for the pull boxes were lined with gravel. Ramps were also installed in the pits to allow wildlife to escape. Crews continued to build forms for the concrete pier foundations. On Wednesday, the drilling of the pier holes on the west half of the substation pad continued. Once completed, the holes were covered with plywood. Pull boxes were delivered and installed in the excavated pits. Crews continued to layout the construction design on the substation pad. On Thursday, concrete was poured in several of the pier holes. An area was designated as a concrete wash-out station. The trucks had containment buckets to capture washout materials and the drivers laid down visquene to capture any spills. Drilling of pier holes continued as well as foundation form construction (see Figures 1, 2, and 3). On Friday, crews continued drilling pier holes, pouring concrete into the pier holes, and setting pull boxes. On Saturday, crews continued to drill new pier holes, removed forms from the cured concrete piers, and backfilled and re-compacted the excavations around the pull boxes.

#### ACCESS ROAD:

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

PG&E is drawing up plans to fix the erosion problem that occurred at Wetland #4 on the south side of the access road where an 18-inch culvert was installed under the road. Also, PG&E's environmental consultants are in the process of consulting with CDFG regarding the erosion problem.

#### **STAGING AREAS:**

## **Summary of Activity:**

The staging yard/laydown yard on the north side of Sand Creek has been cleaned up and all materials removed from the area (see Figure 4). Rolled wattles, silt fencing and wildlife exclusion fencing are still installed around the staging yard.

Agoura Hills • San Francisco • Sacramento • San Diego • Phoenix



#### **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.

## **Environmental Compliance:**

The CPUC EM observed that all work activities were in compliance with the approved Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. Escape ramps were place in excavations to allow wildlife to escape and plywood was placed over completed excavations to prevent wildlife from entering. 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. Heavy equipment was parked overnight in a designated area within the substation boundaries. The refueling trailer within the substation site was contained in a visquene-lined straw bale area. Watering of the work area and access road for dust control has been conducted several times daily or as needed. 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 3-14-08)

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.

## SUMMARY OF 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 starting foundation work at substation site, March 7, 2008.



**Figure 2** – Crews constructing foundation forms and pouring concrete foundations at substation site, March 7, 2008.



**Figure 3** – Area where office trailers will be placed on the west side of the substation site, March 7, 2008.



**Figure 4** – Staging yard/laydown yard on the north side of Sand Creek, March 7, 2008.