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# PROJECT MEMORANDUM DELTA DPA CAPACITY INCREASE SUBSTATION PROJECT

**To:** Junaid Rahman, CPUC

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

**Date:** April 2, 2008

**Subject:** Weekly Report #23: March 23, 2008 – March 29, 2008

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

CPUC EM Jody Fessler was on site Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SUBSTATION SITE:**

### **Summary of Activity:**

PG&E electrical crews worked Tuesday through Saturday erecting buss support structures, excavating trenches, installing conduit, and backfilling trenches (see Figures 1 and 2).

D&C Concrete crews worked Tuesday through Friday drilling pier holes, building foundation forms, constructing rebar frames, and pouring concrete (see Figure 3). Concrete trucks washed out in a designated location. On Thursday, D&C crews began excavation for the SPCC pond at the north end of the substation site (see Figure 4).

#### **ACCESS ROAD:**

# **Summary of Activity:**

The access road was watered several times a day for dust control. Speed limits were limited to 15 mph.

#### **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. Rolled wattles, silt fencing and wildlife exclusion fencing are still installed around the staging yard.

#### **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. Heavy equipment was parked overnight in a designated area within the substation boundaries. Watering of the work area and access road for dust control has been

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conducted several times daily 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.

A new fueling station was set up by PG&E crews (see Figure 5). It consists of two 55-gallon fuel drums that have been placed inside a solid plastic crate that will contain fuel in case of leaks. A fire extinguisher, shovel and absorbent materials are staged near the crate. A large plastic sheet has been placed inside the crate to use as secondary containment during fueling activities, or to cover the container during a rain event.

A pair of Swainson's hawks were observed in an oak tree approximately 1200 yards from the construction site. These birds will continue to be monitored for disturbance from construction activities.

#### **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 (Undated 4-02-08)

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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<sup>th</sup>.

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

# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1** – View of substation site looking northwest, March 27, 2008.



**Figure 2** – Buss support structures partially installed in southwest corner of substation site, March 27, 2008.



**Figure 3** – Crews working on foundations at the substation site, March 27, 2008.



Figure 4 – Crews starting excavation of SPCC pond, March 27, 2008.



**Figure 5** – New fuel container with two 55-gallon drums, March 27, 2008.