



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 22, 2003
Subject: Weekly Report #47: April 14, 2003 – April 20, 2003
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Summary of Activity:

Tuesday, April 15:

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) and asked if the Essex EI had seen any more burrowing owl activity in the field west of the Los Esteros Substation. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that he had been walking in the field a few days ago and came upon an active burrowing owl nest. He said the nest was approximately 350 feet away from PG&E's nearest 115kV Upgrade tower in the southwest corner of the field. Because the nest was outside of the 250 foot buffer zone established by CDFG, the Essex EI was not planning on reporting the nest sighting. The nest is located within the 500 foot resource survey corridor.

Thursday, April 17:

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex EI and informed him that biological discoveries, within 500 feet of the project, need to be reported to the CPUC EM. The CPUC EM also recommended that the Essex EI inform the City of San Jose contact person about the burrowing owl nest since it is on the City's property.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit at the north end of the project segment in the late morning. No crews were working at poles #1 through #5 at the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM observed a sparrow trying to build a nest in the splicing box at pole #1 L. The CPUC EM called the Essex EI and informed him of the situation. Near pole structure #5, the CPUC EM spoke with Thomas Fraser of Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. who was surveying the Pacific Commons property for rare plants. He informed her that cattle will be introduced on the property in the next couple of weeks to eat the non-native grasses that have grown up on the preserve. The CPUC EM observed that the work sites were neat and clean.

At the west end of Cushing Parkway at poles #9 L and R, crews were working to complete the scaffold structure (see Figure 1). No crews were working at poles #8, #7, and #6 L and R at the time of the site visit.

In the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the underground segment. Splicing crews were working at man-hole vault #2 along Cushing Parkway. Splicing crews were also working at man-hole vaults #3, #4, #6, #7, #8 and #9. Traffic signs and cones were placed around the work areas. At the Mervyn's staging area, crews were working at that location and the area was observed to be neat and clean. The sandbags that were placed around the storm drains were holding up well.

At the south end of Fremont Boulevard, cones were placed around poles #10 L and R. A boom truck was at the location. Electrical crews were observed working on the riser structure 10 L.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit along McCarthy Boulevard. Crews were observed working at poles #14 L and R, #15 L and R and #17 L and R. Crews were staying within their work areas and the sites were observed to be neat and clean.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of construction at Zanker Road adjacent to Highway 237. Crews were splicing cable at the pole west of Zanker Road near the hawk's nest. The tower is close to an active red-tailed hawk's nest and is within the Raptor Nesting Buffer required by CDFG. Permission to work there was granted by CDFG as long as the hawk was not disturbed by the activity and there was a raptor specialist on-site. At the time of the site visit, a raptor specialist from Albion Environmental was on-site observing the hawk's activities. Most of the splicing activity was taking place inside a vehicle at the base of the pole and the hawk did not show signs of disturbance.

Later in the afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation site. A crew had been working outside before it started raining, but went home early when the rain started. The CPUC EM spoke with Jeff Jensen of OCI and the Essex EI who informed her that sparrows and finches were trying to build nests all over at the substation site on the electrical structures. The Essex EI had been discouraging the birds from nesting by knocking the nests down before they could become established. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean.

The CPUC EM met with the Essex EI in the late afternoon and the Essex EI showed her the approximate location of the new burrowing owl nest in the field west of the Los Esteros Substation site. The nest is approximately 350 feet away from PG&E's closest 115kV tower, which is located in the southwest corner of the field.

No work was being conducted today at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's property or the King & Lyons property.

Friday, April 18:

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit along Montague Expressway where the Trimble-Montague 115kV upgrade is being placed. The CPUC EM observed cones around the foundation work areas and plates over some of the foundation pits. Crews are working at night from 7 PM to 5 AM along this segment.

Next, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation. A crew was working on grouting the bottom of the steel structures where they meet the foundations (see Figure 2). The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean.

Along McCarthy Boulevard, crews were observed working at poles #14 L and R dead-ending wires (see Figure 3). No crews were observed working at poles #15 L and R, #16 and #17 L and R. The CPUC EM observed that crews were staying within their work area and the sites were observed to be neat and clean.

At the King & Lyon's property, crews were also working on pole #13 dead-ending wire. Crews were staying within their work area and the site was observed to be neat and clean.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the underground segment in the afternoon. Splicing crews were working at man-hole vault #2 along Cushing Parkway. Splicing crews were also working at man-hole vaults #5, #6, #8 and #9. Traffic signs and cones were placed around the work areas. At the Mervyn's staging area, crews were working at that location and the area was observed to be neat and clean.

At the south end of Fremont Boulevard, cones were placed around poles #10 L and R. A boom truck was at the location. Electrical crews were observed working on the riser structure 10 R.

At the west end of Cushing Parkway at poles #9 L and R, crews were working on the towers from the scaffolding. No crews were working at poles #8, #7, and #6 L and R at the time of the site visit.

At the north end of the project segment, no crews were observed working at poles #1 through #5 at the time of the site visit. The CPUC EM observed that the work sites were neat and clean.

No work was being conducted today at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's property.

Environmental Compliance:

On April 15, the CPUC EM asked if the Essex EI had seen any more burrowing owl activity in the field west of the Los Esteros Substation. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that he had been walking in the field a few days ago and came upon an active burrowing owl nest approximately 350 feet away from PG&E's nearest 115kV Upgrade tower in the southwest corner of the field. The nest is located within the 500 foot resource survey corridor. The Essex EI was informed that all resource sightings within the 500 foot survey corridor need to be reported immediately to the CPUC EM.

On April 17, the CPUC EM observed that all sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

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Notices to Proceed (NTP):

CPUC issued the NTP for the Trimble to Montague 115kV upgrade on April 8.

Variance Requests:

No Variance Requests were submitted for review during the subject week.

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 04-22-03)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	6/11/02	Disposal of excavated material, corner of Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway, Fremont.	Completed	6/11/02
2	6/13/02	Material/equipment yard, 42400 Boyce Road, Fremont.	Completed	See Underground NTP
3				
4	6/26/02	Reduce biological buffer from 250 to 15-feet at existing structure, Los Esteros Substation.	Completed; 25-foot buffer approved.	7/5/02
5	7/9/02	Extra work space area for Line F bore, west of Fremont Blvd.	Completed	7/12/02
6	9/6/02	Change the location of the permanent access road to the Los Esteros Substation.	Completed	9/23/02
7	10/23/02	Use of a portion of the Mervyn's property for equipment and material storage for underground construction.	Completed	11/12/02
8	10/23/02	Use of a laydown yard at 800 Spreckles Ave., City of Alviso, for equipment and material storage for overhead construction.	Completed	10/31/02
9	02/04/03	Install ground wire peaks and string optical ground wire (OPGW) from the 230kV towers being built as part of the NESJ Project to the Newark Substation utilizing the existing Metcalf to Newark/Tesla to Newark No. 2 transmission line easement.	Completed	02/18/03



Figure 1
Scaffolding Around Poles #9 L and R at the West End of Cushing Parkway
April 17, 2003



Figure 2
PAR Crews Grouting Between Steel Structures and Foundations at Los Esteros Substation
April 18, 2003



Figure 3
Crews Dead-ending Wire at Poles #14 L and R Along McCarthy Boulevard
April 18, 2003