



# **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 28, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #48: April 21, 2003 – April 27, 2003  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jody Fessler

### **Summary of Activity:**

#### **Tuesday, April 22:**

The Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) called the CPUC EM around 10:45 AM to inform her that the schedule had changed due to weather and that the helicopter would be working on stringing the sock line between poles #17 and #27 today. Construction management had originally planned to have the helicopter work on Wednesday and Thursday.

#### **Wednesday, April 23:**

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex EI who informed her the PG&E biologist was installing the bird diverters on every other pole between poles #10 and #17. This plan has been approved by the SCVWD. The Essex EI also informed the CPUC EM that he investigated the tree near Coyote Creek and pole #18 where the blue heron rookery was, and found scat from a mammal on the ground around the tree and in the tree. He suspects that a raccoon or skunk got the eggs that were in the nests and the blue herons left.

#### **Thursday, April 24:**

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex EI in the morning and he informed her that an active house finch nest was discovered at the Los Esteros Substation site.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation in the early afternoon and met with the Essex EI who showed her where the house finch nest is located. The finch already has six hatchlings and does not seem to be too disturbed by work activities. The Essex EI also informed the CPUC EM that they plan to leave the birds alone that were trying to nest at Poles #1 L and R in the splicing box. The Essex EI spoke with construction management about the issue and they informed him that they would not need to work in the splicing box again. A crew was working at the substation site. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and clean. In the evening, the CPUC EM conducted another site visit of the substation and took some photos of the structure where the house finch is nesting (see Figure 1). No crews were observed working at the time of the site visit.

In the field west of the Los Esteros Substation, crews were working on Poles #27 L and R. Crews were staying within their work area and the site looked neat and clean. The CPUC EM noted a helicopter hovering above poles at the WPCP property. The Essex EI informed her that they were still installing the bird diverters.

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

Along 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, #5, #7 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 neat and clean.

At the south end of Fremont Boulevard, cones were placed around poles #10 L and R. A boom truck was parked at the location. Bird diverters have been placed on the arms of both structures. No crews were observed working at that location at the time of the site visit.

No crews were observed working at the King & Lyon's property or along McCarthy Boulevard during the time of the site visit.

At the WPCP property, crews were working at Poles #26 L and R and #19. Crews were removing the sock lines and installing the traveler lines (see Figure 2). They will be pulling cable within the next few days. The CPUC EM observed that crews were staying within their work areas and that the sites were neat and clean.

**Environmental Compliance:**

On April 24, the CPUC EM observed that all sites were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

**Notices to Proceed (NTP):**

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

**Variance Requests:**

On April 17, Essex Environmental submitted Variance Request #10 to allow for a delay in the implementation of landscaping at the Los Esteros Substation. This request was approved by CPUC on April 29.

**TABLE 1**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE**  
**(Updated 05-01-03)**

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
10	04/17/03	Delay implementation of landscaping at the Los Esteros Substation.	Completed	04/29/03



Figure 1  
House Finch Nesting in Insulator Structure at Los Esteros Substation  
(small square box in left circle)  
April 24, 2003



Figure 2  
ILB Crews at Poles #26 L and R on the WPCP Property  
April 24, 2003