



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Roosevelt Grant, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: December 4, 2002
Subject: Weekly Report #27: November 25, 2002 – December 1, 2002
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Summary of Activity:

Tuesday, November 26:

In the evening, the CPUC EM spoke with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) regarding the construction schedule over the Thanksgiving holiday. He said that the underground crews were planning on quitting early tonight and that they would be shutdown for the long Thanksgiving holiday.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation in the evening. The CPUC EM spoke with the First Alarm security guard on duty at the site. He informed the CPUC EM that he saw an owl land on the ground (or fall to the ground) in the southeast corner of the property last Thursday night. He did not know what it was at first – something white caught his eye – so he went over to investigate, and when he got close, the owl jumped (fluttered) a few feet off the ground and landed behind a small dirt pile and then flew to perch on the fence. At this time the security guard identified the bird as an owl as it looked directly at him. The CPUC EM noted that there were new steel pole structures erected at the site in the southern portion of the property. The CPUC EM walked around the site and observed that the site was clean and that the ground had been well watered. No owl was observed at that time.

Throughout the night, the CPUC EM conducted several site visits of the underground segment of the project. The CPUC EM noted that the large Baker tank is still being stored off the side of the road (Fremont Boulevard) at the U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore area. Construction management is waiting for the rental company to pick it up. All of the road diversions around the bore area and at the intersection of Fremont Boulevard and W. Warren have been removed. The CPUC EM noted that an erosion control mat had been placed over the re-contoured berm north of the U.S.D. Lagoon #4 bore. At an area near man-hole vaults #8, the CPUC EM observed a small crew working in the area setting-up for trenching activities and the placing of conduit. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of trenching activities later in the night at approximate Station 112+50 on the right line heading north (See Figure 1). Crews were trenching and laying conduit as they went. Work was progressing slowly. The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Variance Request #7 staging area adjacent to the Mervyn's facility (Mervyn's overflow lot). No crews were observed working there. Crews were observed trenching from approximate Station 138+50 to 140+00 and laying conduit as they went. The CPUC EM spoke with Todd Textly of Northern Linelayers who said he had installed straw wattles between the Mervyn's parking lot and where they had trenched behind the Mervyn's facility.

Wednesday, November 27:

Around 9:00 AM, the CPUC EM met with the Essex EI at the corner of Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway to conduct a tour of the whole project. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that the trenching crew had an incident last night where they broke an irrigation pipe and filled-up about 75 feet of their trench approximately 4 feet deep with water. The Essex EI stayed on site until they had figured out a dewatering plan and finished dewatering the trench at around 2:30 AM. Crews did not leave the site early as planned.

The CPUC EM and the Essex EI started the tour at the underground segment of the project. First, a site visit of the staging area at the corner of Fremont Boulevard and Cushing Parkway was conducted. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and orderly and no oil leaks from equipment or vehicles were observed. At man-hole vaults #8, one crew member was observed putting exclusion tape up around the trenched areas. Next, the CPUC EM and the Essex EI conducted a site visit of the Variance Request #7 staging area. The CPUC EM observed that the area was neat and clean and that drains were well sand-bagged. The CPUC EM noted that man-hole vaults #9 had been backfilled. The gates were locked leading into the corridor behind the Mervyn's facility where trenching activities had taken place, but the CPUC EM was able to look through the fences and see the area clearly. The area had been graded flat and straw wattles had been placed between the semi-truck parking lot and the trenching corridor at the northern end. A berm north of the fencing will need to be re-contoured and re-vegetated in the future.

The CPUC EM and the Essex EI then conducted a site visit of the overhead segment and the foundation work for poles #15 (a) and (b) along McCarthy Parkway. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and orderly. Both foundations had been poured already at that location, so there are no open pits. The drilling crew is not working at all this week because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The CPUC EM and the Essex EI conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros Substation around 10:15 AM. Crews were observed working on erecting some steel pole structures on the southern end of the property (see Figures 2 and 3). The CPUC EM walked around the property and observed that the site was orderly and clean. The CPUC EM spoke with Jeff Jensen of OCI who said they would be finishing work early today because of the Thanksgiving holiday tomorrow and will not be coming back to work until next week.

Lastly, the CPUC EM and the Essex EI conducted a site visit of the Variance Request #8 staging area/laydown yard (see Figure 4). All project vehicles and equipment were being stored within the staging area boundaries. The CPUC EM observed that the site was neat and orderly and in compliance with mitigation measures.

Environmental Compliance:

On November 26 and 27, the CPUC EM observed that construction was in compliance with the mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permitting requirements.

Notices to Proceed (NTP):

No NTPS were issued during the subject week.

Variance Requests:

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

TABLE 1
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS TABLE
(Updated 12-04-02)

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



Figure 1
Trenching Activities South of Man-Hole Vaults #8
November 26, 2002



Figure 2
Los Esteros Substation: Steel Pole Structures
November 27, 2002



Figure 3
Foundation Work at the Los Esteros Substation
November 27, 2002



Figure 4
Variance Request #8 Staging Area/Laydown Yard
November 27, 2002