



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E NORTHEAST SAN JOSE TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Roosevelt Grant, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** January 2, 2003  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #31: December 23, 2002 – December 29, 2002  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Jody Fessler

### **Summary of Activity:**

#### **Friday, December 27:**

The CPUC EM spoke with the Essex Environmental Inspector (EI) regarding his inspection report from December 23 and the dewatering of the man-hole vaults. He had written that the man-hole vaults had some water in them, but little sediment and were therefore discharged to the storm drains. The CPUC EM asked the Essex EI if he had checked the pH levels and he had not. The CPUC EM asked the Essex EI to do this in the future because the man-hole vaults tend to leach out lime into the water if it is standing for a long period of time. The Essex EI informed the CPUC EM that he had been out to the site today and that there was not a lot going on. He also informed the CPUC EM about a new burrowing owl sighting. PG&E has asked Essex to inspect the area where the Calpine access road is going in to the west of the Los Esteros Substation site because another PG&E project will be going through that area. The Essex EI reported to the CPUC EM that he saw a couple of burrowing owls out in the field west of the Los Esteros Substation site and south of the access road that is being built. He said the birds looked as if they were near a burrow and were approximately 200 to 300 feet south of the new access road. There is a known pair of burrowing owls that has been seen often in the clover leaf area of Zanker Road and Highway 237. That location is not far at all from the location where the Essex EI saw the owls. The sighting was passed along to the biology team at the CEC who are overlooking the Calpine Project.

The CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Catella Property where Pole #5 will be placed in the morning. No crews were observed working and no new work has been done since Essex EIs staked out the access road to the Pole #5 work area. At pole foundation area 9 (a) and (b), a tree service company was cutting tree stumps between pole foundations 8 and 9 and removing them (see Figure 1). The CPUC EM then conducted a site visit of pole foundation #7 and observed that the foundation had been poured. Later, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of pole foundations 10 (L) and (R) and noted that the area had been cleaned up well (see Figures 2 and 3). At pole foundations #15 and #17 (both in agricultural fields) along McCarthy Boulevard, soil piles will have to be removed once the ground dries out a little more. There is nowhere for the soil to run off to since the areas are flat and are plowed agricultural fields.

The CPUC EM drove the underground segment and observed that the route was clean, sandbags were in place near storm drains, and exclusions fences were holding up where needed.

In the early afternoon, the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the Los Esteros sub-station site. The site was wet, but draining well. The CPUC EM observed crews working on building the fire wall at the south end of the property (see Figure 4). The CPUC EM also observed that silt fences were being well maintained.

### **Environmental Compliance:**

On December 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 01-02-03)**

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



Figure 1  
Tree Cutting Service Removing Stumps between Pole Foundations #8 and #9  
December 27, 2002



Figure 2  
Pole Foundation 10 (R) – Area Clean  
December 27, 2002



Figure 3  
Pole Foundation 10 (L) – Area Clean  
December 27, 2002



Figure 4  
Crews Building a Fire Wall at the Los Esteros Substation Site  
December 27, 2002